



# THE INDEPENDENT

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IN THE MAGAZINE

IN THE WEEKEND REVIEW



**A TARRANT TO AMUSE:  
FROM CUSTARD KING  
TO MILLIONAIRE'S CLUB**



**SHAKE A LEG:  
NOWT SO QUEER  
AS MORRIS FOLK**



**BRITAIN'S  
BEST HEALTH  
CLUBS**

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## Jenkins accuses Blair of lacking courage over EMU

TONY BLAIR'S policy on Europe was under renewed pressure last night as his close ally Lord Jenkins of Hillhead accused him of lacking the courage to persuade the British people to join the single currency.

As Germany compounded Mr Blair's problems by stepping up demands for a common EU tax policy, Lord Jenkins criticised the Government for "standing on the sidelines" this week as 11 countries launched

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

the euro, and saying "we will join later if it works".

Writing in *The Independent* today, Lord Jenkins likened this stance to countries such as Romania and Bulgaria "who in the two world wars have waited to see which side was winning before deciding with whom to ally themselves".

The former Chancellor and

European Commission president said Mr Blair's huge Commons majority should give him the "courage" to take the European issue head-on.

He described Mr Blair's failure to call a single currency referendum last summer a "missed opportunity" and insisted the Prime Minister would have won a substantial "yes" vote, enabling Britain to join the euro this week.

Instead, 20 months into the



*'We always join in the end, but at the wrong time and on worse terms'*

— Lord Jenkins on Europe Review, page 5

life of the most popular government in recent history, "practically no advance has been made towards creating the positive majority". He

added: "We always join in the end, but at the wrong time and on worse terms."

Lord Jenkins dismissed as "pathetic" attempts by Eu-

rosceptics to turn the pound "into a national virility symbol" when it had fallen from a value of 12 to less than three Deutschmarks in 40 years.

His criticism will surprise Mr Blair, who regards the Liberal Democrat peer as a mentor. It came as Germany marked its first day in the EU's rotating presidency by warning that Britain's ability to decide its own levels of company taxes could be reduced.

Günter Verheugen, the German Minister for Europe, insisted the aim was not single tax rates, but said "target zones" could be set for corporation tax. As with VAT, the EU would fix bottom and top limits on what member states could levy in a move which would put pressure on Britain to raise its relatively low rates.

Mr Verheugen told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that harmonisation could also

mean the end of the Channel Islands' status as a tax haven. Other potential areas for co-ordination included consumer and energy taxes.

John Redwood, the Tory trade and industry spokesman, said: "The German minister has clearly stated that this single currency scheme is part of a much bigger package to bring about a federal Europe."

Euro conversion, pages 12-13

## Brown aide must go, say ministers

TONY BLAIR is under mounting pressure from his Cabinet to order Gordon Brown to remove Charlie Whelan, his controversial press secretary, because of allegations that he played a part in the downfall of Peter Mandelson.

Some senior ministers intend to demand that Mr Whelan be ousted when the Cabinet holds its next meeting on 14 January, if he is still in his current Treasury post by then.

Those understood to want Mr Whelan moved include Jack Straw, the Home Secretary; Jack Cunningham, Mr Blair's cabinet "enforcer"; David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment; Frank Dobson (Health); Mo Mowlam (Northern Ireland); and Chris Smith (Culture).

But they face opposition from Mr Brown, who is reluctant to lose one of his closest aides, and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Prescott believes it would be wrong to oust Mr Whelan when there is no evidence he was involved in leaking details of Mr Mandelson's £373,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster-General, who resigned on the same day as the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry two days before Christmas.

Their fight to save Mr Whelan will be an early test of the new alliance between Mr Prescott and Mr Brown, revealed in *The Independent* this week, which is aimed at reasserting "traditional" Labour values after the departure of Mr Mandelson, a leading architect of New Labour.

It is believed that Mr Blair has been convinced by close allies, including Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, that it will be impossible for the Gov-

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

ernment to draw a line under the Mandelson affair if Mr Whelan remains in his present post.

One senior minister said yesterday: "A majority of the Cabinet has made its mind up. Charlie must go. I don't see how he can stay."

Another government source suggested the decision had already been taken in principle to remove him as the Chancellor's spin-doctor, but that he might be found another job.

"What is still under discus-



Whelan: Under pressure

sion is when he goes and where he goes," said the source.

Mr Whelan's critics admit there is no evidence he leaked details of the loan to the press. But they suspect he may have played a part in its inclusion in a biography of Mr Mandelson by Paul Routledge, a close friend of Mr Whelan, which will be serialised in *The Mirror* next week.

Friends insist Mr Whelan has "done nothing wrong" and that there are no grounds whatsoever for him to be sacked.

The fall-out from Mr Man-

delson's sudden resignation continued yesterday, as Blairite ministers expressed concern at Mr Prescott's decision to flex his political muscles by forming his partnership with Mr Brown and opposing closer links between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. "He's behaving like an excited kid who has just got the Christmas present he always wanted — Peter Mandelson's head on a plate," said one Blair ally.

The Prime Minister was urged to reassess his authority over his Cabinet by Lord Shore of Stepney, the former Labour minister, who told BBC Radio: "If private ambitions and grudges and grievances and disappointments are allowed free rein, and if they are exploited by a number of anonymous PR men on behalf of their masters, that is a recipe for disaster."

Asked if that was happening in Mr Blair's administration, he said: "I think there is a danger of that. It is something I'm quite sure, in his own best interests, the Prime Minister will want to deal with quite firmly."

The departure of Mr Mandelson, who was the Cabinet's strongest supporter of closer Lib-Lab co-operation, is also causing problems for Paddy Ashdown. His critics, who claim he is "coysing up" to Mr Blair, have reopened the Liberal Democrats' intense debate on relations with the Government.

Malcolm Bruce, Treasury spokesman, played down the agreement between Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown to extend the remit of a cabinet committee involving senior Liberal Democrats from constitutional reform to other issues. Mr Bruce said this was only a personal declaration of intent by two leaders.



2,000 men and women went diving into the North Sea in a traditional start to the New Year at the Netherlands resort of Scheveningen EPA

## Yemen hostages arrive home to diplomatic row

SURVIVORS of the Yemen hostage shoot-out came home last night for an emotional reunion with their relatives, three days after the ordeal in which they were used as human shields by terrorist kidnappers.

BY JOHN DAVISON

The group left the Yemeni capital of Sana'a yesterday morning for a flight to Paris on the first leg back. They were seen off by the British ambassador, Yemen's cultural minister, other political figures and members of human rights groups. Young girls in national costume presented the group with roses before their departure, while other local people held banners saying "We're Sorry". Claire Marston, the

British woman who was shot in the shoulder and hip after seeing her husband killed, remained in hospital.

A diplomatic row is threatening to erupt, after it emerged that one of the survivors had been asked to change his statement about the shootings by a Yemeni secret police colonel. Yemen's ambassador to London has been summoned to the Foreign Office to be told of Britain's "dissatisfaction" at his government's failure to provide a full explanation.

## Rubber ducks jump ship and head for America

AMERICANS LOOKING to get ahead with a little early Christmas shopping could do well to head down to the beach, as millions of toys are expected to wash up on the west coast.

Rubber ducks and other plastic toys, Christmas lights and artificial trees are among the cargo washed overboard in a massive storm last October.

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

Scientists have estimated it will take about 10 more months for the contents of hundreds of containers to reach land.

Tropical storm Babs descended on one of the world's largest container ships, the 906ft APL *China*, which was

bound for Seattle, carrying a consignment of Christmas goods in 366 containers. Barometric pressure dropped so rapidly that the storm developed into a "meteorological bomb", driving 100mph winds and 60ft waves and ripping the containers from the ship's deck.

Two more ships, carrying consumer goods from China to

Los Angeles, were caught in the storm. Together they lost a further 45 containers.

"Fortunately no one was hurt but Babs destroyed an enormous number of containers, the biggest loss in one incident," said Curtis Ebbsmeyer of the US National Marine Fisheries Service in Seattle.

Precise details of what each

container held are subject to legal wrangling over insurance claims, but it is believed they include 15,000 trainers and an assortment of plastic toys.

Jim Ingraham, a scientist with the US fisheries service who has developed a computer model of Pacific Ocean currents, estimates that October or November is the most likely

time for beachcombers to see the first toys wash ashore.

Dr Ingraham used previous spills to refine his model of ocean currents. One of the most informative was a spill of 29,000 bath toys, including yellow ducks and blue turtles, which were lost in 1992 and took 11 months to travel from the mid-Pacific to North America.

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**TODAY'S TELEVISION**  
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Honduras revisited: Two months ago Central America was torn apart by Hurricane Mitch. Phil Davison, whose reports on the tragedy prompted readers to contribute £300,000, returns to find battered communities struggling to rebuild their lives

# Hope amid the mud and rubble

MELISSA MORTIMER wanted to spend Christmas with her sister Kate in Wantage, near Oxford. Kate was expecting a baby on Christmas Day. Instead, Melissa, a 22-year-old with dual British and US nationality, was helping to rebuild Honduras from the devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

Despite her age, Melissa, born in Cheltenham but now a resident of New York state, was in charge of a team of 26 US marines and American navy "Sea Bees" - engineers - building a makeshift bridge alongside one destroyed by Mitch's floods.

A "Sea Bee" herself (the term comes from CB, or Construction Battalion) and wearing combat fatigues and a white hard hat with the emblem "safety is my responsibility", she helped to toss rocks on to wire mesh and concrete culverts to ensure the bridge was in place by Christmas.

That helped to restore Honduras's vital highway 15 between the capital, Tegucigalpa, and the north of the country, allowing many Hondurans to make Christmas and New Year visits to relatives they had not seen since the hurricane. It will also help Hondurans to take the vital coffee crop - now their highest export - to market.

Christmas Day offered a decent meal at Soto Cano (a US air force base near the capital), but then it was back to bridge building, ensign Mortimer told me as she nibbled from an MRE, or "meal-ready-to-eat". These are the US military rations she and her team live on out here in the wilds, in a military tent she shares with two fellow women engineers.

American troops also began deploying "anti-mine" dogs last week to sniff out up to 70,000 landmines left over from Central American wars but now feared to have drifted loose during Mitch's floods. The Americans had to overcome an initial problem. The dogs had been trained in Holland and at first reacted only to commands in Dutch.

After an initial slow response from the world, aid and assistance have poured into Honduras, Nicaragua and the rest of Central America since Mitch dumped five days of rain on the isthmus in late October and early November. The US has provided several hundred million dollars in aid, as well as the navy bridge builders, helicopter pilots, marines and army troops.

British Royal Marines and navy personnel have gone but British civil engineers will be involved in reconstruction work after surveys by the Department for International Development (DFID). Private British



Lives in ruins (top) and a glimmer of hope as the clean-up and rebuilding begin (left and far left)

because of the lack of sanitary facilities, that burns the eyes, causes respiratory problems and leaves a bitter taste on the tongue. Ice cream vendors sell their wares within yards of the muddy lake in central Tegucigalpa caused by the floods. To clear the lake, still believed to hide many corpses, the authorities would have to blow a hole in an accidental dike - caused by a landslide - that still blocks the Choluteca river. They are afraid to do so for fear the surge would wash away more riverside homes.

In surrealistic scenes at the weekend, citizens lit candles, placed them on floating ashtray-like dishes with notes carrying the names of loved ones and pushed them down the river in a ritual they believed would lead them to missing relatives.

While the Honduran government recently downgraded its death toll from 7,000 to 6,000, up to 11,000 may still be missing. Most were unregistered poor families living in riverside shanty towns.

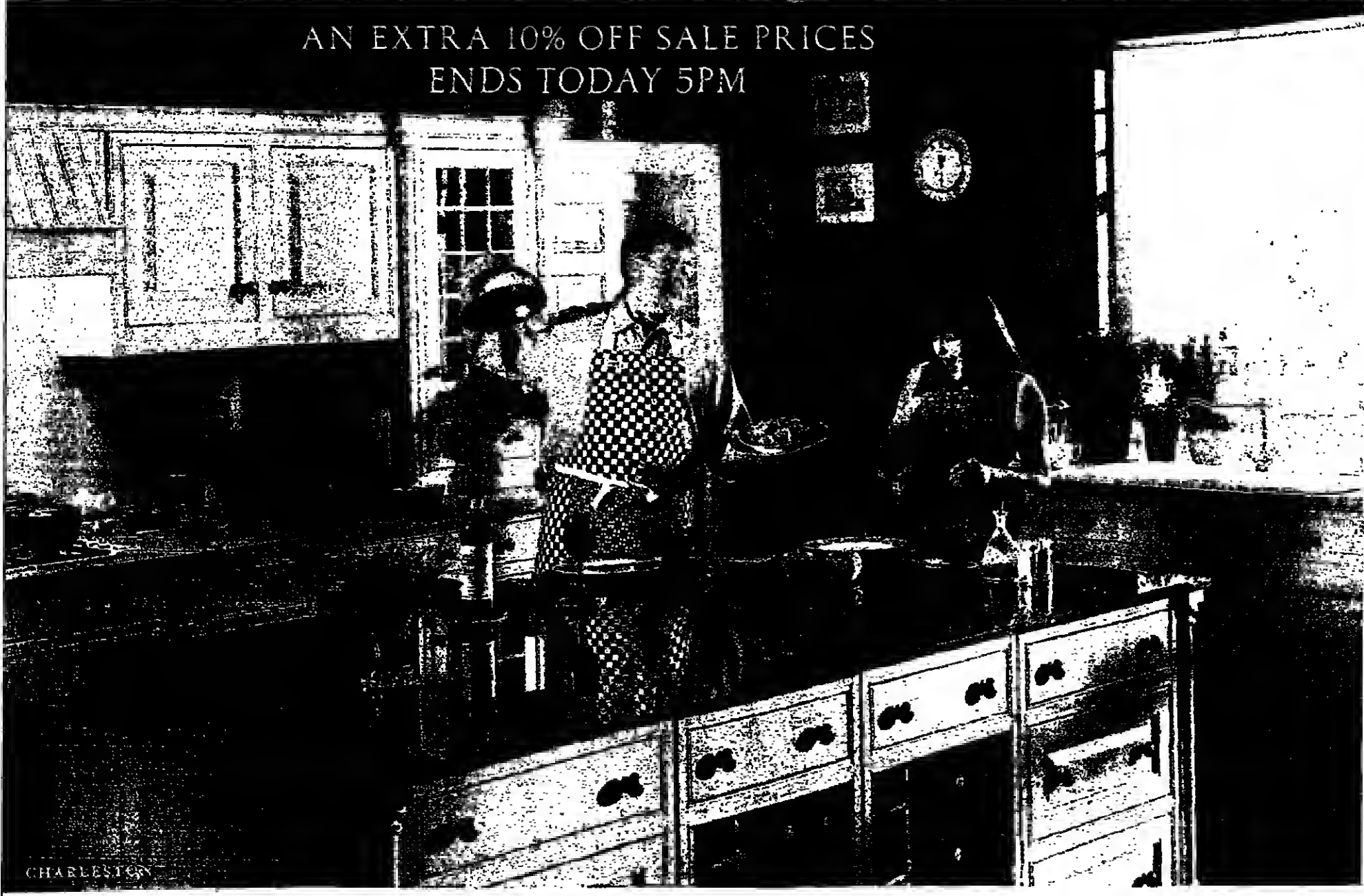
As Christmas approached, crime returned to the streets. With an initial post-Mitch overnight curfew now lifted,

groups of youths roam the streets at night, robbing and sometimes raping. Armed guards stand outside every store or fast-food restaurant.

The need to feed children has also led to a rise in prostitution. In the little town of Bethlehem, actually a seedy suburb of Tegucigalpa, the new mayor, Vilma de Castellanos - widow of Cesar "Fatty" Castellanos, the mayor who died in a helicopter crash after the hurricane - pledged to close down Bethlehem's dozens of bordellos.

In a stunning contrast to the squalor and poverty of downtown Tegucigalpa and stricken rural villages, a glitzy new mall opened up before Christmas with marble floors, designer stores, dazzling decorations and a 75ft Christmas tree. In the mall's Osh Kosh children's shop, a baby suit cost more than £20, the weekly wage in better times.

"This is an insult," said Gustavo Flores, a street vendor who lost his riverside home in the hurricane and was wandering around the mall to keep warm. "The richos [the very rich] just seem to get richer the worse things get for us."



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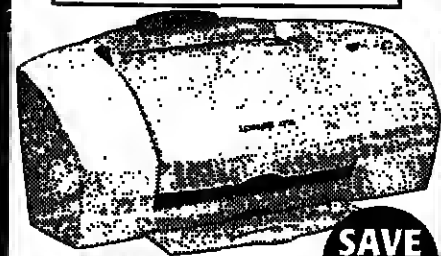
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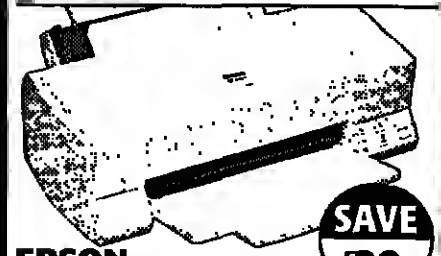
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# Witnesses against police 'threatened'

AN INQUIRY into allegations of police corruption and malpractice within the force that piloted "zero tolerance" has discovered attempts to intimidate witnesses due to give evidence against officers.

Supporters of the detectives under investigation, who include Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon, dubbed "Robocop" for his tough stance on lawlessness, are understood to have threatened police officers and members of the public prepared to testify in the inquiry.

Forty-six police officers are facing a variety of allegations involving corruption and malpractice, including accusations of offering drugs for information.

The officers, most of whom are from Middlesbrough CID, face 397 complaints, including more than 240 allegations of criminal wrongdoing. Eight officers are currently suspended, including Mr Mallon, the former

BY JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

head of Middlesbrough CID. There is no suggestion that the accused officers have been involved in witness intimidation.

The police inquiry, known as Operation Lancelot, which is being headed by Andrew Timpson, the Chief Constable of Warwickshire, is understood to have uncovered evidence of witness intimidation.

Police officers who have been prepared to testify to the inquiry are understood to have complained of being told they face a backlash by their colleagues if they speak out.

Members of the public have also claimed they have been approached by serving police officers who have tried to intimidate them into withdrawing their co-operation. Among the tactics allegedly being used are police officers visiting wit-

nesses' homes in an attempt to suggest they are informers and thereby risk the wrath of local criminals.

A source said that there have been attempts to "turn witnesses" and intimidate them into withdrawing their evidence.

A spokesman for the Police Complaints Authority, which is overseeing the investigation, would not discuss details, but he did concede: "There is evidence of attempts to undermine the inquiry."

Operation Lancelot is one of the biggest police corruption inquiries yet seen and has been running for more than a year.

The Crown Prosecution Service is understood to have received files from the inquiry team relating to allegations of CID officers supplying heroin in return for information from informers. There were also allegations that officers had threatened and beaten suspects

or potential informers to obtain information. Middlesbrough CID was in the forefront of adopting the US-style tactic of zero tolerance in which all offences, however minor, were punished.

The CPS will now decide whether charges should be brought against any officers.

The inquiry is also looking at allegations that Mr Mallon passed information to the press and "alleged activity which could be construed as criminal".

In November Mr Mallon received an official warning after a second inquiry into whether he had been fiddling his expenses. He was cleared of making illegal claims. His supporters believe the second investigation was a witch hunt by officers desperate to convict him.

Last month Mr Mallon said: "I have acted honourably in the interests of the police and the public and I have acted legally."



Detective superintendent Ray Mallon, dubbed 'Robocop', is one of 46 police officers facing allegations

## Churchmen attack work on holidays

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

TWO CHURCH leaders will warn tomorrow that family life in Britain is under threat because flexible working arrangements are designed to suit companies rather than employees.

Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, will say that traders in the City of London should have refused to work this weekend to smooth the introduction of the single currency and that shop staff should have rebelled when asked to work on Christmas and Boxing Day.

Interpreted on GMTV's Sunday Programme, Cardinal Hume calls on people to protest against having to work "simply because the financial arrangements of the world require it".

He suggests that a mass refusal to work over the Christmas holiday would force employers to think again. "I don't ever think we are driven by forces which we can't control," he says. "And the will must not be to make more money. The will's got to be that we want a better society."

Cardinal Hume expresses concern that children of two working parents sometimes have no contact with them from early morning until late at night. "The flexible hours are often to suit the firm or the industry, but do not necessarily suit what is important or possible for the family," he says.

He urges the Government to change the tax system to favour the family and ensure that working practices are more family-friendly.

His calls are supported in the same programme by the Right Rev James Jones, who was appointed Bishop of Liverpool last year after the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, vetoed two other proposed candidates.

Bishop Jones urges the Government to reform a tax system



Cardinal Hume: Calls for shop staff to rebel

which, he says, penalises families. "It seems to me that it's a matter of justice that a salary, that feeds one or two people ought to be taxed very differently from a salary that feeds four or five people, so serious attention has got to be given to the taxation system," he says.

He calls for tax allowances to be transferable between parents if one of them decides to stay at home to look after a child, reducing their overall tax burden. Such a system is backed by the Tories but Labour is not convinced of its merits.

Urging employers to take more account of the family, Bishop Jones says: "I think the way some people are made to work is very destructive of family life and people who lead companies ought to be more responsible."

He also says that politicians should not expect to keep their private lives out of the public's gaze, arguing that voters "do have a right to scrutinise politicians so that they can be assured that they are trustworthy".

If politicians want to divorce private life from public office, they are saying "do what we say, but ignore what we do", Bishop Jones says. "I do not think you can drive a wedge between the two."

### IN BRIEF

#### Ashdown warned on Labour links

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT leader, Paddy Ashdown, faced renewed warnings yesterday that he could not expect to extend co-operation with Labour without his party's agreement. Malcolm Bruce, his Treasury spokesman, told Radio 4's *The World at One* there were "fundamental differences" on economic policy and co-operation would not increase "entirely on Paddy Ashdown's say-so".

#### 'Loony dookers' brave big chill

ABOUT 60 hardy swimmers plunged into the waters of the Firth of Forth in South Queensferry's annual "loony dook" yesterday. The New Year's Day dip - with the water temperature at 2C - raised about £3,000 for the elderly. The swimmers splashed around for 10 minutes while an in-shore lifeboat stood by.

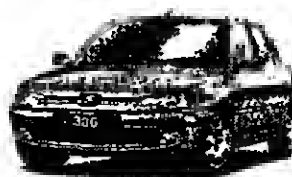
#### Workers unpack 10in spider

STAFF AT Sheffield's wholesale market unpacked a consignment of South American figs and nuts and found a spider with a 10in leg span. The goliath bird eater kills birds and snakes and is poisonous, but not fatal, for humans. It was taken to a wildlife centre where it has been nicknamed Hairy Harry and is being fed pig hearts.

#### Parade hits the million mark

A RECORD 1.2 million people took to the streets for London's New Year's Day parade. More than 10,000 performers joined the 13th annual event through the West End, which boasted floats from 12 boroughs and 6,500 cheerleaders and bandsmen from America.

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# After the big party, the big clean-up

**PARTY HATS.** cans, broken glass and plastic bottles by the thousand were swept from the streets of Edinburgh yesterday after the biggest New Year party in the world passed off without serious incident.

Some 200,000 revellers thronged Princes Street and the city centre to watch a spectacular fireworks display over the castle and listen to bands, including UB40 and Mansun.

First-aid posts coped with scores of incapable drunks but there were only 12 arrests, for

**BY STEPHEN GOODWIN**  
Scotland Correspondent  
**AND KATE WATSON-SMYTH**

minor breaches of the peace, and no serious casualties. City hospitals treated about 40 people, way down on the 350 casualties seen three years ago, before the party became a ticket-only event to prevent overcrowding.

The success of the occasion was a great relief to the city council, which is planning a seven-day celebration for the



A reveller suffering the after-effects of the Hogmanay celebrations in Princes Street, Edinburgh, yesterday. Some 200,000 people flocked to the party *Gail Prentice*

turn of the millennium. Hogmanay is estimated to bring £30m into Edinburgh's economy, with up to 100,000 visitors drawn to the city and every hotel bed booked for miles around.

Four tons of fireworks went off in four minutes after the midnight bells while 650 police officers and 550 stewards manned a city centre cordon.

At 2.30am, council workers began a massive street cleaning operation. In 40 hours they expect to pick up 35 tons of cans, glass, plastic and sundry items of clothing. Revellers were ordered not to bring glass

bottles into the cordon but some drinks lose their fizz if decanted into a plastic container – hence the empty champagne bottles abandoned in doorways.

Police, street cleaners and

transport officials all over Britain will be hoping that the lessons learnt from this year's celebration will help with the planning of the next one.

In London, British Transport Police used the evening to count how many people used the Tube, how long crowds took to disperse and where traffic was most congested.

"Last night was seen through the eyes of next year, with a view to working out how we will do it then," a spokesman said. "It is all part of a very long planning process which has already been going on for some time."

Some 90,000 London revellers ignored police pleas to stay away and crammed into Trafalgar Square to hear the chimes of Big Ben signal the arrival of 1999. Thousands more partied elsewhere in the West End.

A total of 44 arrests were made and five people needed hospital treatment for minor injuries, but police said most people had been well behaved.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard, which put 1,500 officers on duty, said it had been a successful operation.

"Obviously we will look at how things went this year to help us plan next year's operation but we are expecting it to be extremely busy," he said.

"At the moment no one is allowed to take any annual leave over the New Year period and it is possible that we could have a total of 26,000 officers on duty but that will not be decided until nearer the time."

In Birmingham, about 40,000 people packed into Centenary

Square for the traditional party and police said the total of 16 arrests was fewer than on a normal weekend evening in the city.

The celebrations were marred by ugly incidents in some other towns. Wiltshire police were yesterday investigating the death of a 20-year-old man whose body was found slumped in a shop doorway in Warminster. A post-mortem examination was being carried out and police appealed for information from any revellers who were in the town centre in the early hours.

Greater Manchester Ambulance Service reported a spate of violent incidents including a series of stabbings.

But mobile casualty units set up in Liverpool, Warrington and Manchester as a trial for next year were declared a success. Kevin Mulcahy of the Mersey Regional Ambulance Service, said they had treated about 30 people each. "It is not a huge number but it freed up 30 ambulances and meant people were not waiting in hospitals for hours for treatment."

One man was seriously ill after being assaulted in Weymouth, Dorset.

Over the next few weeks, police and local authorities will study the information gathered from this year's celebrations and start organising for the turn of the millennium.

But as one police spokesman said: "There will be many more people out but you have to remember it's a party and on the whole the crowds are good-natured – it's not like it's a poll tax riot."

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## You're never too old for student life

**GOING BACK** to college leads to a long and happy old age, according to a report published this week.

Campaigners with the National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (Niace) called for a huge expansion in courses for older people and said the stereotype of arts, crafts and holiday French for OAPs should be swept away.

They said demand for courses would boom as the number of pensioners increased, and claimed that keeping people's minds fit and active would cut hospital and community care bills.

"Older people represent a wasted untapped resource which could be unleashed with more and better learning opportunities," said Jim Soulsby, author of the Niace report *Older and Bolder*.

"We would like to see a situation where the familiar retirement age of 60 or 65 is blurred so people have the opportunity to do work that they want, whatever their age."

The report, part of a national campaign to encourage more people to sign up at college, is being launched at the same time as the Government announces a £50m investment in careers and training advice for the over-18s.

At present careers centres deal mainly with teenagers leaving school or college. Ministers want to expand the advice available as part of Tony Blair's promise to bring an extra 500,000 people into college and university by 2002.

The Niace report said that it was essential to increase the number and variety of courses available for the elderly as the

**BY BEN RUSSELL**  
Education Correspondent

number of people in older age groups increased. More training and education for the elderly would help them to stay independent, or even help them to go back into paid or voluntary work, the report said.

Dotie Russell, 69, a retired civil servant, is setting up her own mail order fashion business after enrolling on a three-month women into business course near her home in Tidworth, Wiltshire.

She won the national senior learner of the year award for her work.

She said: "I was sitting around at home doing nothing. The first year of retirement is marvellous because you can do exactly what you want, but after a time you find you no longer have the same friends and there's nothing to aim for. Going on the course was absolutely marvellous."

Mr Soulsby said: "There will be a dramatic expansion in demand over the next five years, because the number of people aged 50-plus will increase and they will be better-educated and more demanding. Doing some sort of learning in later life is life-changing and creates opportunities for people."

"We always say 'use it or lose it'. Physical activity helps keep you active, but mental activity is just as important."

"People say that getting involved in some activity gives them more feelings of self-worth and well-being. There are the beginnings of research from America and Australia to prove this."

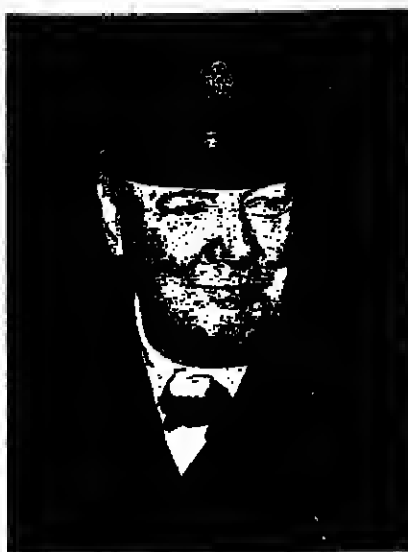
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# Shakespeare voted greatest Briton



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**WINSTON CHURCHILL**  
10,957 VOTES  
1874-1965; statesman and author; heroic leader in Second World War



**WILLIAM CAXTON**  
7,109 VOTES  
1422-1491; first English printer; publisher of *The Canterbury Tales*



**CHARLES DARWIN**  
6,337 VOTES  
1809-1882; naturalist, famous for his theory of evolution and natural selection



**ISAAC NEWTON**  
4,664 VOTES  
1642-1727; mathematician, physicist; regarded as world's greatest scientist



**OLIVER CROMWELL**  
4,653 VOTES  
1599-1658; soldier and statesman; Lord Protector of England

HAVE tried lately to read Shakespeare, and found it so tolerably dull that it nauseated me," wrote Charles Darwin. Unfortunately for the originator of the theory of evolution, nearly 12,000 people disagreed with him and elected William Shakespeare as British personality of the millennium in BBC Radio 4's poll.

The poll was organised by the 4's Today programme, which asked listeners to vote on their choice of personality. A shortlist of six was drawn up and the results were announced yesterday.

Winston Churchill, a man who insisted on victory at all costs, was narrowly beaten into second place with nearly 11,000 votes, and William Caxton came third. Following Darwin were Isaac Newton and Oliver Cromwell.

Although the poll is certain to have sparked lively debate in many households, the final shortlist did more to reveal the conservative nature of the average Radio 4 listener.

With barely a glance towards

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

women (Queen Elizabeth I managed 11th place), and given the choice of 1,000 years of British history, the voters plumped for six dead white English men. And the value of their achievements could be open to dispute.

Caxton did not invent printing, he merely imported it and Cromwell, a man whose defenders claim was the key figure in establishing the world's first parliamentary democracy, is viewed by others as a ruthless tyrant who slaughtered thousands of Irish people.

Where were the women? What of Emmeline Pankhurst, the suffragette, Mary Wollstonecraft, the 18th-century feminist, and the Countess of Lovelace, the poet Lord Byron's daughter, who has been described as the first computer programmer?

Nor was there any space for Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin, or Alexander Graham Bell and John Logie Baird, the inventors of the telephone and the television.

There were, however, a number of votes for Peter Mandelson, the former secretary of state for trade and industry, the French footballer Eric Cantona and the Muppets character Miss Piggy.

Rod Liddle, the editor of *Today*, said he was overwhelmed by the number of calls that the competition had generated. "Even though many thousands of listeners voted for other nominees, I think most

people would agree that Shakespeare should be there or thereabouts."

The actress Dame Judi Dench told the programme that she was particularly glad that Shakespeare had won.

In her household, she said, he was known as "the gentleman who pays the rent".

For many years in her early career, she had played nothing but Shakespeare, she said and her favourite play was *Twelfth*

Night. "It's wonderfully constructed, so beautiful."

Dame Judi plays Queen Elizabeth I in the new film *Shakespeare in Love*, in which the monarch goes to a production by Shakespeare, played

by Joseph Fiennes. Professor Stanley Wells, of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, said that he was delighted with the result and added that the Bard "would very much have enjoyed the moment".

## Mackintosh tops theatrical review

THE MOST important person in British theatre is Sir Cameron Mackintosh, according to a survey of the profession.

The *Stage* newspaper annually draws up a list of the top 100 people in theatre by canvassing views throughout the theatrical world. Impresario Sir Cameron tops the list with the Australian agent Holmes a Court, owner of the *Roll Moss* group of theatres, in second place - a reversal of last year's placings. He only performer in the top 10 is Dame Judi Dench.

But *The Stage* points out that compiling the top 100 would be more accurate job if more box office figures were published. Few theatres, commercial or subsidised, make public their box office returns.

The criteria for the top 100 most significant people in theatre today are based on individual assets, the number of people employed, quality of product, risks taken and contribution to the image and future of the profession.

Among the actors in the top 10 are Sir Ian McKellen, who has been highly successful in films after vocally quitting London; Ewan McGregor, who last year became a stage as well as screen personality; Nigel Hawthorne, who has just received a knighthood; Geraldine McEwan; Ralph Fiennes;

BY DAVID LISTER



Sir Cameron Mackintosh, British theatre's No 1

Vanessa Redgrave and Dame Diana Rigg. *The Stage* says that Rigg's roles in *Phedra* and *Britannicus* in the West End "confirm her position at the top of the profession".

There is no place among the actors for Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman, who were in the disappointing National Theatre production of *Antony and Cleopatra*. But Trevor Nunn, artistic director of the National, is in the top 10.

Among playwrights, Mark Ravenhill, Jonathan Harvey, Jim Cartwright and Terry Johnson join the expected names of Tom Stoppard, Alan Ayckbourn and Harold Pinter. No female playwrights have made it into the top 100.

## Soap actors are second-rate

STINGING attack on the quality of acting in television soap operas has been made by a television scriptwriter.

Maurice Gran, the co-writer of BBC TV's sitcom *Birds of a Feather*, was scathing about BBC's flagship series *EastEnders* as well as ITV's *Coronation Street*, and said that soap operas generally were the enemy of quality.

He said in *The Stage*: "EastEnders is full of second-rate actors pretending they are first-rate. *Coronation Street* is full of second-rate actors pretending they are funny."

"I am not resentful of their success. I am just resentful of the room they take up in the schedule and the difficulty that comes in getting a non-soap to the ratings top 10," he said. He added that television dra-

BY DAVID LISTER

mas generally were following the lead of soaps in their attempt to become habit forming.

"*Heartbeat* and *Peak Practice* are going for 26 episodes in a series, which is soap quantity. It worries me people want these fixed things in their lives. I also think the actors are underpaid and if they were paid the going rate, there would be far fewer soap episodes." He said a lead actor "gets a grand a show - which is about what the ninth lead in a sitcom gets".

A spokeswoman for *EastEnders* said the cast was paid a competitive wage.

A *Coronation Street* spokeswoman said: "As for being the enemy of quality, the 18 million people who watch our show each week clearly disagree."



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# Hollywood stars gain legal right to privacy

BY ANDREW GUMBEL  
In Los Angeles

WHETHER THEY woke up to the New Year with their spouses, their secret lovers or their dogs, Hollywood celebrities could take comfort yesterday in the introduction of a controversial new California law, giving them greater leeway to prosecute paparazzi snooping on their private moments.

The law, sponsored by the Screen Actors' Guild in response to the controversy surrounding the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, beefs up the state's restrictions on invasion of privacy and makes anyone who trespasses on private property "with the intent to capture any type of visual image, sound recording or other physical impression of the plaintiff" liable to three times the normal level of damages.

Several leading film actors, including Arnold Schwarzenegger and George Clooney, had complained of serious harassment by press photographers and television crews and pushed hard for new legislation. Their cause was eventually taken up by the Democratic Party leader in the state Senate, John Burton, after lobbying by state legislators with close ties to the Hollywood establishment.

How effective the new law can be remains to be seen, as its provisions are already covered by other laws on privacy. Even the law's proponents admit it is discreetly worded to avoid clashing with freedom of speech rights guaranteed by the US Constitution.

"It's very narrow," the president of the Screen Actors Guild, Richard Masur, said when the measure came before a senate committee over the summer. "We're trying to say,



Hitting back at the paparazzi: Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife Maria Shriver, Alec Baldwin, George Clooney

"Stay out of people's most private moments and out of their private property." News organisations and civil liberties advocates, however, are concerned it will restrict journalists' freedom without significantly guarding against abuses. And it might provide an already powerful Hollywood PR machine with another means to control the content of newspaper and magazine articles.

"Cloaked in concerns about 'stalking' and invasion of privacy, the proposed Bill is actually an unnecessary legislative intrusion into the First Amendment rights of a free press," the Sacramento Bee newspaper wrote. "Much of what it purports to limit is already illegal or subject to lawsuits charging abuse; the new law is simply a blunt instrument with which legitimate photographers will be beaten along with less scrupulous paparazzi."

After the high-speed chase and car crash that killed Diana in Paris 16 months ago, several leading actors recounted how they had also come close to serious injury in showdowns with paparazzi. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he was

run off the road with his wife and two children. Alec Baldwin punched a photographer on the basis that harassment had almost caused his wife, Kim Basinger, to drop their baby. Several prominent Californian politicians, including the one-time student radical Tom Hayden, soon joined in the campaign for tougher laws.



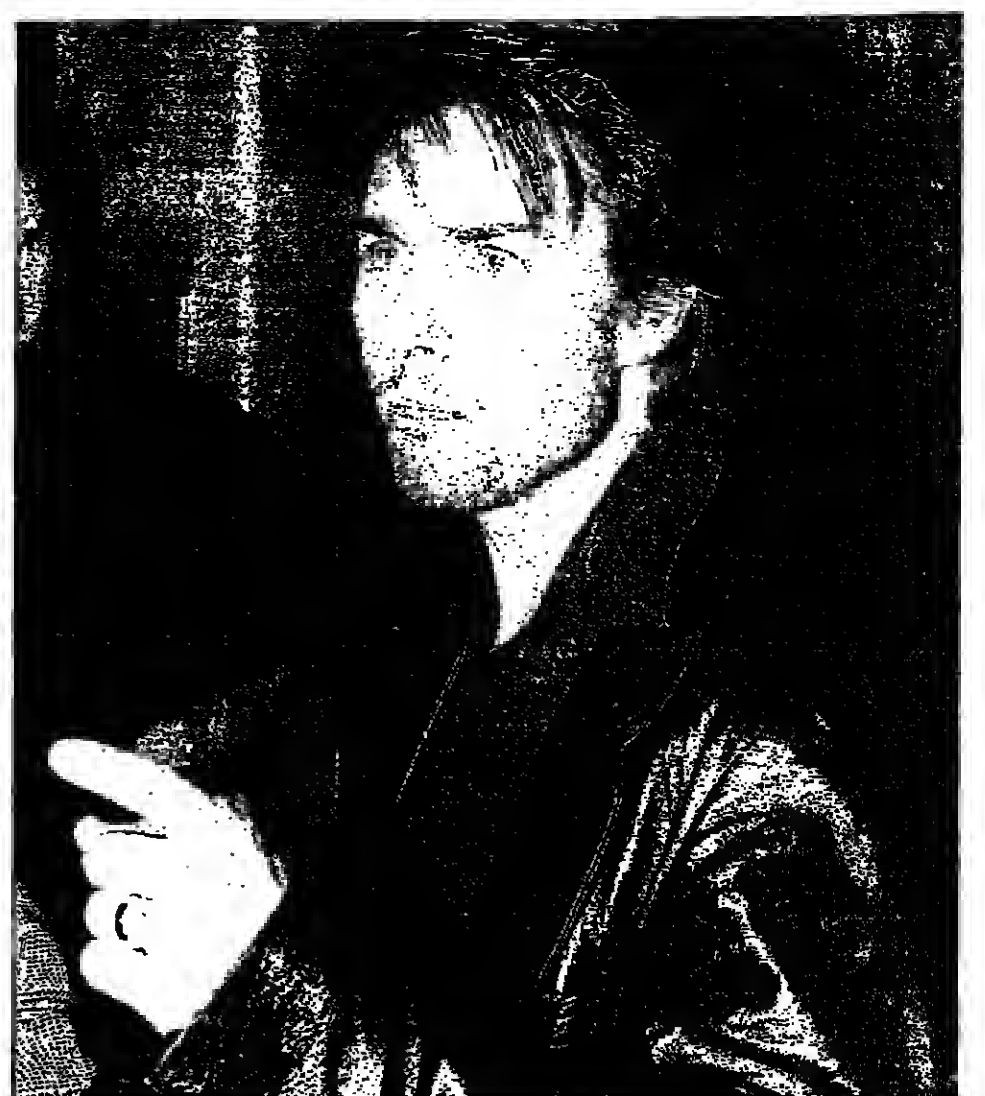
"Anything that attacks the paparazzi is good for democracy," Mr Hayden said. Several early attempts to put an anti-paparazzi law on the books foundered because of First Amendment problems.

The law that came into effect at midnight yesterday was heavily vetted by constitutional experts and fell far short of



early calls for photographers to keep a requisite distance from their subjects on the street.

Stars have been resorting to other laws to protect their privacy. Last month, a news photographer was arrested in Los Angeles, accused of tapping calls between Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman and trying to sell the material to tabloid papers.



Tom Cruise warns a photographer against approaching his children Star Images

## London 'hogs money for homeless'

BY GARY FINN

AGENCIES HELPING the homeless outside London say they are becoming increasingly frustrated at the "disproportionate" allocation of funds to the capital.

As proof that the funding scales have tipped too far, critics point to the Government's recent allocation of £145m over the next three years to finance a new Rough Sleeping Unit in the capital, which will be headed by a "Homelessness Czar".

On the same day, the minister for Local Government and Housing, Hilary Armstrong, announced a three-year £34m Homelessness Action Programme, money to be fought over by the rest of the country.

Ms Armstrong subsequently launched the Government's £4m Winter Shelter Programme with the promise of more than 500 extra bed spaces at the beginning of the month.

Only 73 of these were allocated to centres outside London - Bristol, Cambridge and Brighton. The rest will be scattered across the capital from Camden to Southwark.

The National Homeless Alliance estimates that two-thirds of the nation's rough sleepers are to be found outside London.

Maurice Condie, chief executive of the Byker Bridge Housing Association, in Newcastle, said the situation in many regional cities had reached crisis point but agencies were not receiving additional resources to tackle the problem.

Byker Bridge runs 180 beds for the homeless, including an 18-bed direct access hostel aimed at those sleeping on the streets. "At our direct access hostel we are regularly four times oversubscribed. It's normally full but if we do have a vacancy it's gone within three to four hours, not days," he said.

Mr Condie said the problems faced by organisations outside London were "fundamentally different" to those in the capital, and needed a specialised approach.

The burning issue in the North-east was not a lack of housing but the lack of a well-funded support network to help those suffering from mental health problems and alcohol and drug addiction, he said.

Staff at Byker Bridge described Ms Armstrong's £11m annual package as "a drop in the ocean".

## MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH

THE GOVERNMENT agency charged with sorting out the millennium bug has warned that the problems could have started already.

Action 2000 has been raising the alarm over the bug, which is expected to throw computers into chaos in less than a year's time. But for businesses who use computers to order and pay for stock 12 months in advance, the arrival of 1999 could start the bug off, as 2000 will already feature on their system.

Gwyneth Flower, head of the government agency Action 2000, told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme yesterday: "We expect that from today onwards incidents will occur because it is the first time many computers will have seen 2000 for real."

While large businesses

such as British Telecom, Barclays Bank and Unilever have spent millions combating the millennium bug, she said, many smaller companies fail to see the urgency. "Many companies have made up their own applications to suit their needs based on the year ahead," said a spokesman for the agency. "Over the next few days there are going to be some problems and this might bring to light the relevance to companies of getting it sorted out."



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Staff at the investment bank Salomon Smith Barney working around the clock on New Year's Eve

Neville Elder

# Banks fear new computer errors

BY SARAH WILSON

## IN THE CITY

AS MOST people under 30 were staggering into bed in the early hours of New Year's Day, an army of technicians in the City of London was fuelling up with caffeine to face a 14-hour shift. Champagne bottles remained firmly corked in the world's major financial centre, as the City suspended its traditional carousing until Tuesday. For currency trading institutions, the birth of the euro means adjusting millions of computer programs which were designed to calculate the newly obsolete conversions between Spanish pesetas and Dutch guilders.

An estimated 30,000 City workers have been racing against the clock since Thursday afternoon to ensure the new systems are working by the opening of the Tokyo foreign exchange market in the early hours of Monday. With so much of City trading reliant upon computers, the slightest glitch could mean millions of pounds going astray. Yesterday the deputy governor of the Bank of England warned: "Mistakes are possible".

Electricity supplies have been backed up twice over as a precaution. After several dress rehearsals, nothing short of a terrorist attack will be allowed to derail the conversion process. About a million Londoners are employed in financial services and the success of "conversion weekend" is crucial if the City is to maintain its dominance in the face of mounting competition from Frankfurt and Paris. At Merrill Lynch, an American investment bank with offices near Liverpool Street, 900 staff were working in shifts yesterday, centred on a bank of desks in its "control centre". On the wall, status boards were updated as each task was completed.

Most banks also set up websites so other institutions and clients could monitor progress. Mitch Shivers, the head of euro preparations at Merrill, said: "A lot of our work is virtual every day in my home I get updates of what is happening. But for this weekend, we thought there would be a tremendous benefit in bringing everyone together." If anything unusual happened, colleagues could take the novel step of walking over and speaking to each other.

# Euro fever is not built in a day

## IN EUROLAND

EUROLAND AWOKED yesterday morning to a giant headache but it had little to do with the introduction of the euro.

"After all that was drunk last night, I don't think many people this morning want to try dividing anything by six-point something and I don't know what," said Jean-Claude Chapet, 57, leaning on the zinc counter of a horse-racing bar in the centre of Caen, Normandy.

In truth, the New Year's Day bank holiday, and the weekend, meant the euro, even in its limited plastic, electronic and cheque-book forms, was not supposed to make its debut at street-level in France until Monday. One Parisian show-off managed, however, by prior arrangement with his bank, to pay for a New Year's Eve meal for seven at a restaurant on the Champs Elysee at five minutes past midnight yesterday morning. (His bill came to 298.80 euros or roughly £210).

A brief survey of small businesses in Caen - all the big ones were closed - suggests the euro will take much longer to make its rather ghostly presence felt in provincial France. "Oh yes, we will be showing our prices in euros and francs," said Jean-Louis Richomme, 41, proprietor of a flower shop just off the Avenue 6 Juin. But when? "Oh, I think definitely before the end of this year, when we have everything sorted out with the banks and our suppliers."

The name of the avenue, the date of the D-Day invasion a few miles to the north, makes Caen as good a place as any to consider the implications of closing a century of two great European civil wars with the introduction of a single European currency.

The ancient capital of William the Conqueror was largely destroyed in fighting between French, British and German troops in June and July 1944. The mood of people in Caen yesterday - small businessmen and their customers - was enthusiastic but unburied. Although the franc had vanished overnight, it was still

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Caen

reassuringly present in their pockets. Their coins and notes had been transubstantiated into mere accounting units of a pan-European currency run from Frankfurt and serving 11 countries. But they still had Gustave Eiffel or Paul Cézanne on the back; a baguette still cost four francs and about 20 centimes, not 0.64 euros.

Claude Gervais, 55, another customer in the betting bar, complained that he still thought in "ancient francs", the currency that disappeared nearly 40 years ago. "Then we only had to divide by ten to get the new francs. With the euro it will be le bordel (literally, the brothel) to do the sums."

A shrug of the shoulders and a slug of red wine. "I suppose we will get used to it. It's all three years away, isn't it?"

Until 1 January 2002, when the new notes and coins appear, the euro will exist at street level only as an electronic, plastic and cheque currency. Small businesses are encouraged to show their prices in both euros and francs from Monday and to accept payment in euros by credit card or special cheques. There is, however, no compulsion on them to do so.

Jean-Claude Menard, proprietor of a large fishmongers selling fresh oysters, crayfish and lobsters for the continuing new year feasts, said: "Me, I'm definitely a European. With this new currency, we will be able to push the dollar around instead of being pushed around by the dollar. That has to be good for employment, doesn't it?" But Mr Menard said he thought it would be "several months" before he had all his tills, bankers' card machines and price lists converted to operate in the two currencies.

In the meantime, the French state and its agencies are doing their best to excite the interest of their citizens. Any baby born in France yesterday was to be given a 100 euros (£70) present from the state.

# Birth of currency passes Britain by

## ON THE STREETS

ON THE streets of London yesterday, the only people chued up about the birth of the euro were German tourists.

Despite the acres of coverage given to its launch, few of the people interviewed by The Independent knew what a euro was worth (about 70p), many did not know how many countries had joined (11) and none could name the president of the European Central Bank (Wim Duisenberg).

Asked the value of a euro in sterling, Jas Phull, 42, a businessman, correctly said: "About 1.4". He added: "It will make it easier for trading. I think I understand it fairly well, but I haven't taken too much notice because we haven't joined."

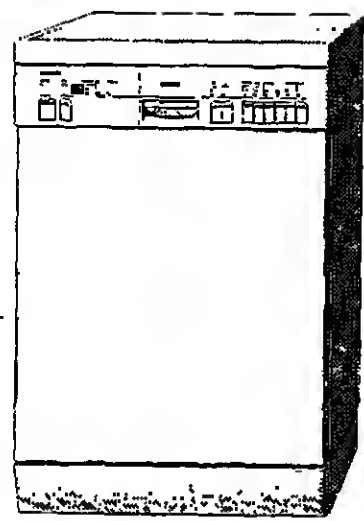
BY CATHY COMERFORD

Jane Wildsmith, 24, was not so sure: "I am not keen," she said. "I don't think we know enough about it."

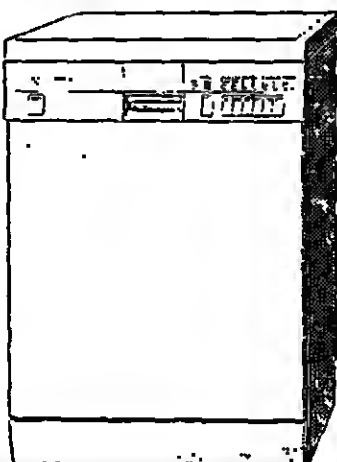
Ben Phillips, 25, from London, works in information technology, servicing banks and financial institutions, and felt Britain might be missing the boat. "We already have such a drive towards harmonisation of markets. Traders don't want to be left behind," he said.

Eike Hoffman and Bastian Stüchert, both 24, deftly calculated the conversion from euros to marks and sterling, and were baffled by the UK's reluctance over the euro. Bastian said: "I can't understand the British."

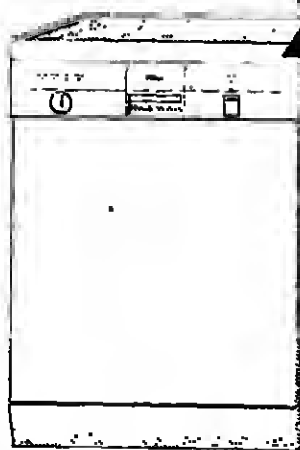
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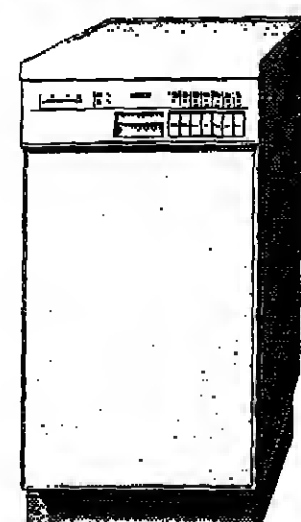
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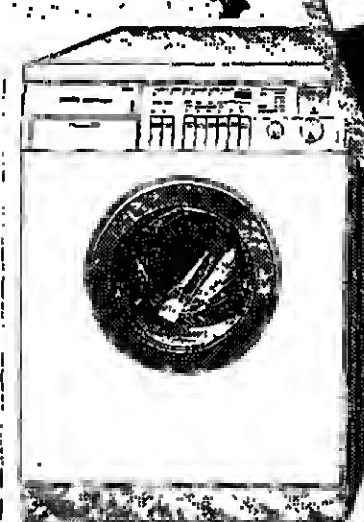
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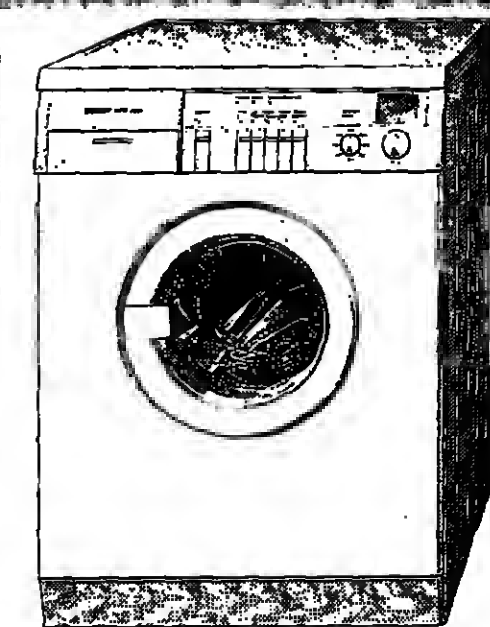
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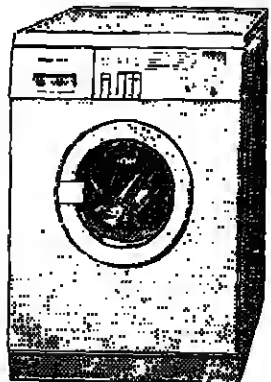
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# Gore declares his presidential stand

WITH LITTLE fanfare, Al Gore emerged yesterday as the first official candidate in next year's campaign for the American presidency.

After filing papers late on Thursday with the Federal Election Commission in Washington DC, he signalled his intention to make a run to succeed President Bill Clinton as the next tenant in the White House.

Vice-President Gore, who yesterday was out of the capital on a family skiing holiday in Utah, said he now plans to create the "Gore 2000 Committee". Its formation will allow him to begin the critical task of raising funds for his campaign, to open a campaign office and to begin to hire campaign staff.

Mr Gore made his move just as his political partner of the past six years, Bill Clinton, was preparing to face a possible impeachment trial in the Senate in the next few weeks.

But in spite of Mr Clinton's scandal-derived difficulties, the Vice-President stands out as the clear front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

Two other Democrat figures, former Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, and Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone, have also declared tentative plans for pursuing the presidency in recent weeks.

Both have created ex-

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

ploratory committees to study the viability of their joining the race. That less definitive step does not allow them, however, to begin raising funds directly for campaign activities.

By moving more quickly than his putative rivals for the nomination, Mr Gore hopes to get a jump-start on raising money.

With a changed calendar of election primaries that will squeeze the nomination process into the first quarter of next year, analysts estimate that any presidential hopeful must amass \$25m (£16m) this year to have any realistic chance in 2000 - that is \$60,000 a day, every day of this year.

History offers some encouragement for Mr Gore. The last 50 years have seen five US vice-presidents successfully make the leap to the presidency. They were Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, Lyndon Johnson, George Bush and Gerald Ford. Two former Democrat vice-presidents tried and failed to secure the presidency, however - Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale.

If the enduring popularity of the Clinton administration survives the coming months, it should give Mr Gore a strong edge over his opponents. His



Gore: Democrat favourite

fortunes will also rest to a large extent on the economy and on hopes that the growth that has marked the Clinton presidency since its outset will endure.

Mr Gore has recently stepped forward to defend Mr Clinton against the impeachment allegations. He notably spoke out on the day impeachment articles were passed in the House of Representatives. "I feel extremely privileged to have been able to serve with him as his partner for the past six years," he said.

The Republican field has also begun to come into view.

On Wednesday, Senator John McCain of Arizona filed papers announcing the creation of his own exploratory committee.

Most eyes, however, are trained on the popular Republican Governor of Texas, George W Bush. While he has made no formal statements as yet, the son of George Bush is widely expected to make the plunge.

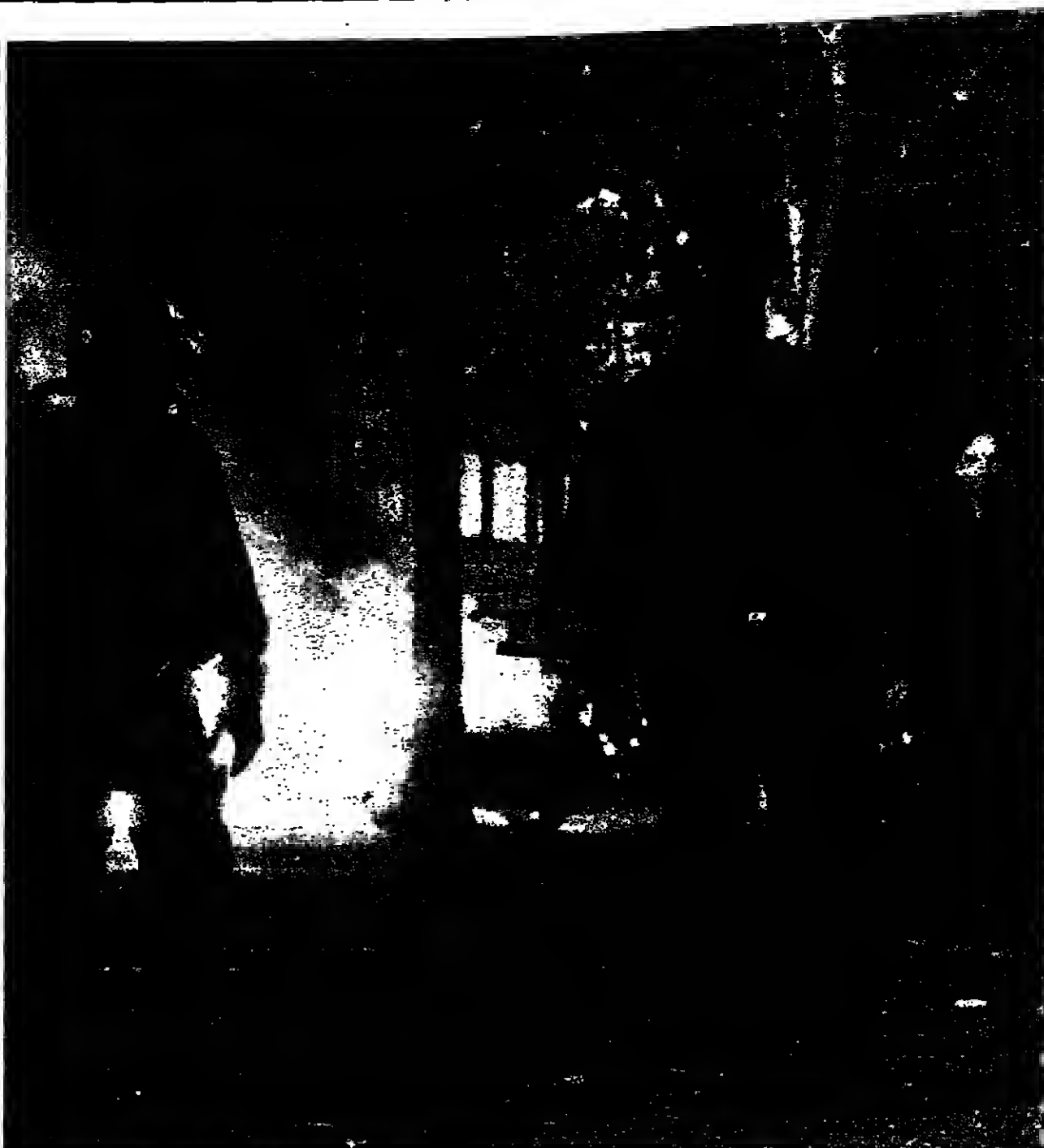
With many months still to go and plenty of scope for the unexpected, most observers none the less are looking forward to a 2000 race that will put Messrs Gore and Bush into combat for the White House.

Mr Gore is certain to take special care to ensure that his fund-raising for the race is above all suspicion.

The Attorney-General, Janet Reno, has twice declined to answer Republican calls to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate claims that during the 1996 campaign Mr Gore violated election rules both at a fund-raiser in a Hindu temple and in making phone calls from his White House office.

Craig Smith, a veteran Democrat adviser who has been appointed as the Vice-President's campaign manager, told *The Washington Post* yesterday that special controls are being put in place.

"We've already got lawyers working on guidelines, rules and vetting procedures," he said. "It will be more extensive than in the past because of heightened scrutiny."



Riot police watch a car being burnt in the eastern French city of Strasbourg as rioting broke out on New Year's Eve. In all 23 people, mostly teenagers, were arrested but the damage was down on last year. Reuters

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## Bomb-making cache found in warehouses

POLICE WERE questioning a utility worker in San Francisco after finding bomb-making materials, including "ready-to-go explosives" and raw materials similar to those used in the Oklahoma City bombing, hidden in two warehouses.

The 44-year-old worker was taken into custody for questioning on Thursday after the first cache of explosives was found. He later led investigators to a second, nearby warehouse where officials found "a whole bunch more bomb-making stuff," said Sherman Ackerson, a police spokesman.

The employee's home in San Francisco was also searched, but Mr Ackerson said he did not know what was found. Police said the worker, who was not arrested, has no local criminal record. His name was not released.

Authorities declined to com-

By KIM CURTIS  
in San Francisco

ment on a motive for the explosives. The first bomb-making operation was discovered after a Pacific Gas and Electric Company employee discovered water in a warehouse basement and followed the trail. Upstairs, the worker found 250lb of ammonium nitrate thawing inside a storage locker.

Police ordered 30 workers out of the building and evacuated another building across the street. They were concerned that the fertilizer had been mixed with volatile substances and frozen to keep it from exploding.

A 33-gallon drum of chemicals and books on making bombs were found elsewhere in the building, as was a "small quantity of ready-to-go explo-

sives," Mr Ackerson said. "There's significant information, significant material to show there's a bomb-making operation going on, so we're being very cautious."

Scott Blakey, a Pacific Gas and Electric Company spokesman, said there was no reason for ammonium nitrate to be in the centre, which combines warehouse space and offices for employees who supervise the utility's meter readers. Mr Blakey said there had been no recent threats against the utility.

Mr Ackerson did not offer specific details on what was found by police at the second warehouse.

Ammonium nitrate fertilizer was combined with fuel to make the 4,800lb bomb that destroyed the Oklahoma City federal building in 1995, killing 168 people. (AP)

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# BUSINESS

## Bell Atlantic linked to \$45bn takeover

BELL ATLANTIC, the largest American local phone company, is in a \$45bn takeover talks with AirTouch, the world's biggest cellular phone company, according to a report on the American TV network CNBC that cited "people close to the talks".

The report said that an all-share deal could be announced early next week. It would be the eighth-largest acquisition ever, and just the latest manifestation of the merger frenzy in the

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

American telecommunications sector which has seen a raft of megadeals in the past six months alone.

AirTouch has been linked in the past with Britain's Vodafone and MCI Worldcom. AirTouch's chief executive officer Sam Ginn has said repeatedly in interviews in the US press that the company - which has been aggressively expanding in

Europe - would be open to takeover offers. According to the latest reports, Bell Atlantic would offer AirTouch shareholders a premium of less than 10 per cent on the current share price. AirTouch's shares jumped \$3 1/2 to \$72 1/2 on Wall Street on Thursday before the market closed for the New Year's holiday. Bell's shares fell 3 1/2 to \$56.

Neither Bell Atlantic nor AirTouch have been prepared to comment on the reports.

They were not returning calls yesterday.

However, analysts said the deal would make a great deal of sense, providing it could clear potential regulatory hurdles.

The American authorities are still scrutinising the \$52bn merger unveiled between Bell Atlantic and GTE, the long-distance phone operator, in July. Bell Atlantic and AirTouch already have links through PrimeCo, a paging and personal communication joint venture which operates in more than 30 American cities. The pair also have a joint equipment purchasing arrangement in the US and use the same mobile phone technology.

US regulators may force Bell Atlantic to sell some of its existing cellular activities as the price of getting the merger through.

Acquiring AirTouch would put Bell Atlantic on a much better footing to compete with

AT&T which leads the US cellular market as well as giving it a strong position of overseas markets which account for half AirTouch's cashflow.

AirTouch boasts 16 million subscribers world-wide, up 35 per cent on a year ago. It added more than one million new customers in the third quarter.

Demand for cellular telephony is growing far faster than the fixed line market.

However, most of the growth is now coming overseas. The

company has operations in 12 other countries including Belgium, Italy, Germany, Japan, Poland, Spain, South Korea and Sweden.

"Bell Atlantic would be getting AirTouch at a good price," said one analyst yesterday, adding that the market had consistently failed to grasp the full value of AirTouch's overseas operations.

The news of the talks suggests that the merger activity in the US telecoms sector, al-

ready at record levels last year, will not abate in 1999.

The past few months have seen the announcement of a \$62bn merger between SBC Communications and Ameritech, the \$48bn acquisition of cable group TCI by AT&T, and the \$1bn international joint venture between British Telecom and AT&T. The deal followed the collapse of BT's earlier plans for a merger with MCI, the second-largest US international carrier.

Monetary union: Asia looks for wider co-operation despite doubts over the European Central Bank

## Top-heavy ECB faces test by the markets

FROM THIS weekend the European Central Bank will formally take over the running of monetary policy for nearly 300 million people in 11 countries. In a truly historic shift of power it will displace the mighty Bundesbank, the Bank of France and all the other central banks of Euroland.

What nobody knows is whether it will be any good at its job, whether it has been set up in a way that will enable it to operate efficiently. The omens are not good.

To be successful, a central bank needs to demonstrate quick thinking and flexibility; an ability to respond to a changing financial environment. The US Federal Reserve moved smartly in the autumn to rescue Long-Term Capital Management, and head off a potential market panic. In its own way the Bank of England has engineered a U-turn in policy in a few short months, cutting interest rates aggressively as the economic climate has altered. In both cases the decision-making process worked.

But the way the European Central Bank has been set up is much more top-heavy. An executive of six people, headed by the Dutchman Wim Duisenberg, is the heart of the Bank, but it is not the body that will make interest rate decisions. That is the domain of a so-called governing council, which consists of the six executive members and the central bank governors from each euro member country. This means a 17-person committee, which will rise to over 20 if and when second-wave countries join the single currency.

Not only is this clearly an unwieldy number, it is quite likely to set the scene for a power struggle between the six executives and the 11 governors, who may find themselves cast in the role of guardians of their own nation's interests. The role of the governors is highly am-

BY STEVE LEVINSON

biguous. They are supposed to put aside their personal or national viewpoints and take a European perspective, but that will be a difficult path to tread, especially if their domestic economies are out of sync.

The lack of an executive majority on the committee, the size of the committee and the uncertain role of the governors make it at least possible that the governing council will not be a quick-witted body. Just how slow-witted it is will only become clear the first time there is a crisis in Euroland.

The contrast between this set-up and the Bank of England's arrangements is stark. The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee is made up of just nine people, of whom five are Bank executives and four are outside economists. There is no representative of a particular region or sector of the economy. This is an arrangement that has annoyed some parts of the business community but it allows members of the MPC to be personally accountable for their decisions.

The financial markets have come to understand the nuances of this system and the thinking of the committee. Within two weeks of the monthly MPC meeting, the minutes are published. These show the arguments that have been put forward at the meeting, and reveal which members favoured which interest rate options and which way they voted. The markets get a further insight into the committee's thought processes from the Bank's quarterly Inflation Reports and the inflation and growth forecasts they contain.

This is a remarkably open and transparent system, and in the eyes of many this transparency helps the smooth operation of monetary policy by the Bank of England.

The European Central Bank takes a completely different view. The ECB is not going to



Wim Duisenberg heads the ECB's six-person executive. But interest rate decisions are taken by a council that also includes 11 central bank governors from member countries

publish minutes of its meetings and there will be no way of finding out how members of the governing council voted. Nor will there be any publication of inflation forecasts.

The ECB is quite clear about why it is taking this stance. It does not want people knowing which way the votes are cast, because this would compromise the independence of the governing council members. In other words the members ought not to be put in a position where they might be subjected to pressure from their governments to vote for or against a particular interest rate move.

Wim Duisenberg argues that the markets will receive all the information they need from press conferences and speeches that he and others will give. But this is clearly a far less transparent way of operating than we have become used to in Britain, and it remains to be seen if the ECB will operate efficiently in such a secretive environment.

This lack of openness raises a related issue of the bank's accountability. The ECB will be an institution that has to answer to hardly anyone.

Unlike any other central bank, there is no government for it to be answerable to. It is for-

bidden by treaty to seek or accept political guidance. Wim Duisenberg is obliged to report at least once a year to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, but in no real sense is he responsible to them. He cannot be sacked (although he says he might resign halfway through his eight-year stint), and the other executives also have eight-year non-renewable contracts.

There is one other area of weakness that might sooner or later be tested. The ECB is not responsible for supervision of the banking system in the euro area. That remains, for the moment at least, the province of the national supervisors. How the ECB would act if a major financial institution needed rescuing is a large and unanswered question. But co-ordinating a lifeboat in the way the Fed did in the US this autumn might prove to be beyond it, with potentially catastrophic consequences.

Europe's new central bank is being launched into relatively calm economic waters. But it has a number of serious design flaws. Only when the waters turn more choppy, as they inevitably will, will we learn if the flaws are fatal ones.

## Tokyo urges global currency system

THE Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi is to float the idea of a new international currency system linking the yen, euro and dollar when he visits key European capitals next week.

Mr Obuchi, who leaves Tokyo on Wednesday for an eight-day trip encompassing France, Germany and Italy, is backing the idea of allowing the three currencies to fluctuate within a limit range in order to prevent the huge swings that have rocked financial markets in the past few months.

The idea will almost certainly receive support from European leaders who are hoping that the creation of a new giant currency zone with the euro will prove to be a catalyst for a return to the kind of managed currency system that prevailed in the immediate post-war years until it was ended by the decision to float the dollar in the 1970s.

The chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Joseph Yam, last week proposed the idea of an Asian monetary union along similar lines to the euro, although he ad-

BY ANDREW GARFIELD



Keizo Obuchi: Dollar, yen euro would be linked

mitted that it could take decades to achieve.

Germany's left-wing finance minister Oskar Lafontaine and his French counterpart Dominique Strauss-Kahn have expressed support for a global currency system as a bulwark against speculators.

However, the idea is unlikely to be met with enthusiasm in the US, which is hostile to such interventionist policies, even though similar ideas have been

winning converts among academic economists in the US.

Mr Obuchi also wants to see an enhanced international role for the Japanese currency, which at present accounts for just 5 per cent of international trading. That compares with 48 per cent for the US dollar and 31 per cent for the European currencies.

That is expected to increase dramatically with the advent of the euro, which most economists expect will swiftly become a major component of the reserves held by central banks around the world.

In his New Year's address, Mr Obuchi said he was confident Japan would return to positive growth this year. He said the government would make all necessary efforts to achieve its economic growth target of half a percent in the new 1999 financial year which starts in April. This would include a new economic plan which would include efforts to restore the health of the financial system, which is groaning under a mountain of debt, and restart Japan's stalled industrial base.

## Missile deal 'threatens jobs'

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE GOVERNMENT was warned yesterday that exports of the Eurofighter could be jeopardised and thousands of jobs lost if Britain selects an American missile system to arm the aircraft.

British Aerospace and GEC, who are heading a European consortium to develop the Meteor air-to-air missile, also fear that Britain's expertise in guided weapons could be lost if the rival Raytheon consortium is selected.

The value of the UK programme is about £1bn, while sales of the missile system to other European countries buying the Eurofighter could be worth another £1bn.

Beyond that there is a vast potential export market outside Europe which the BAe/GEC consortium fears could be affected if the Eurofighter is



Meteor in flight: Due to go into service in 2005, it would arm the Eurofighter and Anglo-Swedish Gripen

American-armed, since US approval would be needed for any sales to third countries.

The Ministry of Defence is due to decide between the two bids in the first half of this year and award the production contract towards the end of 1999.

The Meteor - a beyond visual range air-to-air missile capable of being fired before enemy aircraft have a chance to fire back - is due to go into service in 2005. It would arm both the Eurofighter and the Anglo-Swedish fighter aircraft, the Gripen, which is developed

jointly by BAe and Saab. Until the Meteor enters service the Eurofighter and Gripen will be armed with an existing advanced medium range air-to-air missile. The Pentagon has already blocked an attempt by Sweden to sell the Gripen to Finland by refusing to allow the aircraft to be armed with its missile system.

Alan Garwood, deputy chief executive of Matra BAe Dynamics, said: "The outcome of this contest will decide whether the US has a complete monopoly over the air-to-air missile

market for the next 30 years, as well as control over which countries we can sell the Eurofighter to."

The Meteor programme will safeguard up to 1,000 jobs at BAe sites in Stevenage, Bristol and Luton near Bolton, and thousands of indirect jobs at suppliers as well as several thousand jobs across Europe. The other members of the consortium are Saab, Alenia of Spain and CASA of Spain.

The Eurofighter's main battle threat will be Russian-made SU35 and MIG 29 fighter aircraft, which are armed with a missile system known as AA12 which the Malaysians have already bought.

The advantage of the Meteor is that its ramjet motor technology allows it to be fired from a distance several times greater than the 30-kilometre range of existing medium-range air-to-air missiles.

## THE LONDON BOAT SHOW 8-17 January 99

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## SPORT

Baseball: The big money is made in America, but the game is still followed with revolutionary zeal by Fidel's followers

## Diamond passion of Castro's Cuba



RICHARD WILLIAMS

THE CUBAN people are celebrating two anniversaries this week. Different anniversaries for different Cubans. For some, it marks the 40th birthday of the Revolution. For others, it's a year since Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez joined the New York Yankees.

In the early hours of New Year's Day, 1959, Fulgencio Batista slipped away from a party at the presidential palace and took a plane to exile, leaving the island to Fidel Castro's Rebel Army. This time last year Orlando Hernandez was sitting on an uninhabited rock 40 miles from the Cuban shore, waiting to be picked up by the US coastguard. Hernandez had left a 18-a-month job as a nurse in a Havana psychiatric hospital; within days he would be signing a contract worth £4.5m over four years.

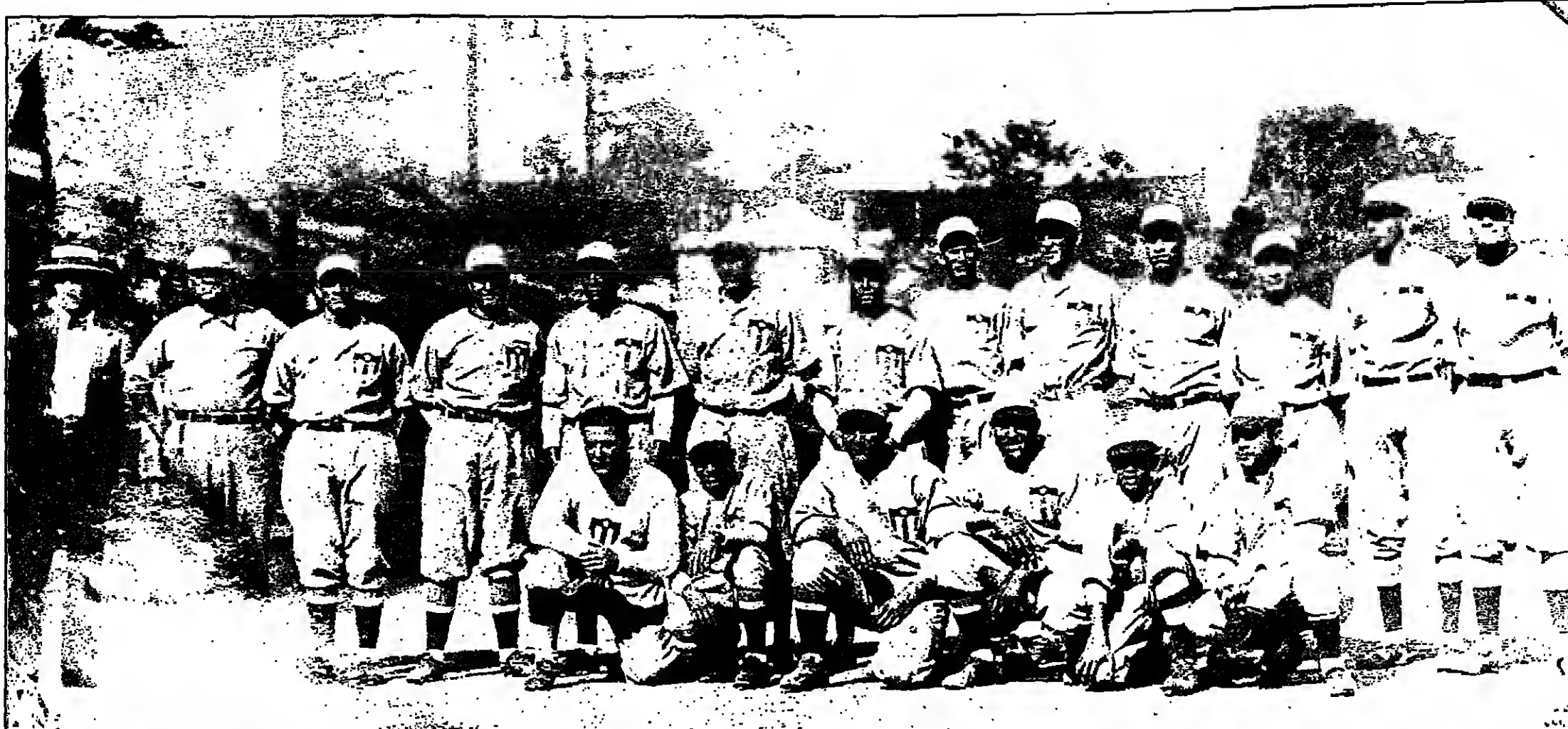
Those figures say a lot about Cuba, about the United States, about sport and business, and about human values. As someone points out during *A Diamond In The Rough*, a documentary made by the BBC2 Arena team and to be shown tonight, it would have taken Hernandez 60,000 years to earn in Cuba the sort of money he's now making in the US.

But when El Duque came off the bench to complete the Yankees' clean-sweep victory in the 1998 World Series, it was hard not to imagine Fidel Castro, back in Havana, standing up to cheer. Just as he might have done when Orlando's half-brother Livan, who defected two years earlier, repaid the worship of Miami's community of exiles by pitching the Florida Marlins to the title in 1997. For if there's one thing Fidel likes as much as a sheet of paper showing an increase in the sugarcane crop, it's a game of baseball. And when he sees the Hernandez brothers on television, or any of the Cuban players who have defected to the US in recent years, perhaps he thinks back to his own youth, to his days at university in the early 50s, when he pitched for the School of Law baseball team and met Joe Cambria.

A lot of young Cuban ball-players met Cambria, a scout for the Washington Senators, in those days. During the Second World War, when military service deprived big clubs of many players, Cambria started visiting Cuba. Over the next 25 years he signed more than 400 Cubans - at first only men of Spanish ancestry but later, after Branch Rickey had smashed the game's colour bar by bringing Jackie Robinson to the Brooklyn Dodgers, also players of African origin.

In fact, a Cuban could have taken Robinson's place in history. Looking for the right man for his purpose, Rickey approached Silvio Garcia, a Cuban pitcher playing in the US Negro League. Trying to discover whether Garcia had the necessary temperament, Rickey asked him: "What would you do if a white American slapped your face?" Garcia's response - "I kill him" - was not what the Dodgers' president had in mind.

The young Fidel Castro Ruz had his own reasons for refusing the siren call. "I think if Fidel had signed for the major leagues, as he has triumphed in everything else, he

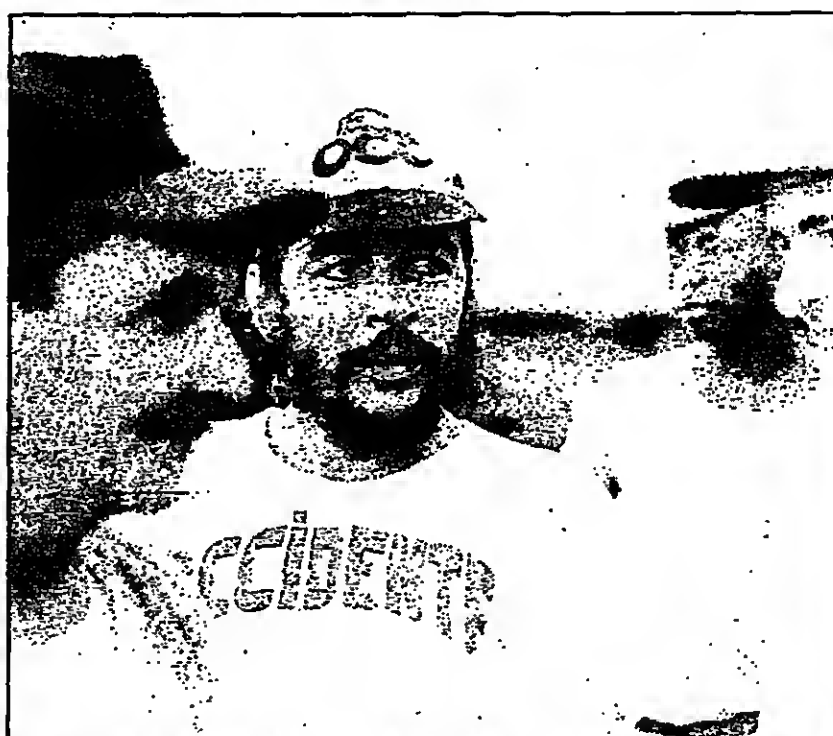


Pitchers and big-hitters of the past: A Cuban squad from the 1909-1910 season line up in Havana's Stadium Tropical

Photographs: Llanusa Archive



Fidel Castro, who could have been a top pitcher had his career not taken a different course, takes a practice swing in 1963



Che Guevara, whose first love was football, shows his solidarity with baseball at an exhibition game in Cuba in 1962



Orlando 'El Duque' Hernandez now earns millions with the New York Yankees

Popperfoto/Reuters

would have triumphed in that, too," is the loyal testimony of Eddy Martin, Cuba's veteran baseball commentator. But Castro certainly never lost his passion for the game.

Six weeks before the fall of Havana, he and 230 guerrilla soldiers marched on the small town of Guisa, where a garrison defended the central highway. After a 10-day action, the government forces withdrew. "As his men searched the town, Castro sat on a box, conversing about baseball with townspeople and eating fish with his fingers," a biographer wrote. "He had hoped to learn why Milwaukee's Carleton Willey, who had received the Rookie of the Year award of Sporting News, pitched only one inning in the World Series, while the veteran Warren Spahn started three games. With Willey on the mound in the seventh and deciding game, he said, the Braves might have defeated the Yankees."

Baseball came to Cuba in the 1860s, and the local history of the game quickly became interlinked

with the struggles against imperialism and repression. Emilio Sabourin, who founded the first Cuban baseball league in 1878, was arrested as part of a crackdown on the game in the 1890s when the Spanish colonial authorities discovered that profits from the league were being used to finance Jose Marti's independence movement. Sabourin was shipped off to a Span-

ish jail in Morocco, where he died of pneumonia.

Half a century later, Martin Dihigo, a black player who became an All Star in four countries, made a modest financial contribution to the nascent revolutionary movement during a chance meeting with Che Guevara in a Mexico City restaurant. During their six-year campaign, the Rebel Army soldiers relaxed by lis-

tening to radio commentaries. And in 1963, during a ban on public meetings imposed by the nervous Batista government, student protesters carried their banners on to the field in the middle of a nationally televised game, and were beaten up by armed guards in full of the cameras.

Even after the revolution, Cuban clubs continued to compete with

and cutting cane helps in baseball," Fidel once said, talking to reporters while wielding a machete during a morale-boosting visit to a state sugarcane farm in 1966. He had just been given the news of the defection of his chief sugar expert during a trade mission to Madrid. And by that time, the economic boycott had deprived Cubans of a supply of sports equipment, including baseballs. A

small factory was opened in Havana, initially using the mechanism of an old gramophone to wind the balls' cores. Today the technology is a little more advanced, but the castings are still hand-stitched with the sort of care otherwise devoted to the rolling of cigars.

To pre-revolutionary Cubans, the baseball diamond offers their only chance for public humiliation of the

oppressor. Victory in the 1969 amateur world championships held in the Dominican Republic was seen as revenge for the American invasion of that country four years earlier. "It was a way for the Dominican people and the Cuban people to demonstrate against what had happened," Eddy Martin says. "Not against the players, who couldn't be held responsible for the actions of their government, but against the interference of the United States in our country." And you had to be in Barcelona's Estadio de Beisbol on an August day in 1993 to appreciate the joy of the Cubans in defeating the US team in the semi-finals of the Olympic tournament.

There are, of course, many sides to an argument which divides not only political and ideological enemies but, increasingly, the generations. Livan and Orlando Hernandez are the sons of another great player: Arnaldo Hernandez of Havana's Industriales club, the first to be called El Duque. But when Livan defected, Orlando was harassed by the au-

thorities and, by his own account, told that he would never play baseball in Cuba again. Now, driving his 4x4 around the streets of Manhattan, with all the food he can eat, more money than he can spend, and the memory of a tickertape parade to savour, he believes he has found freedom.

But Omar Linares of Pinar Del Rio, whose eight home runs in Atlanta helped Cuba to a second Olympic gold medal, and who has turned down numerous offers to defect, stands at the other side of the philosophical divide between loyalty to the state and loyalty to self. "We play for the people," he says. "Everything I've done and all that I am, I owe to this nation. We give our all for eight, 10 million Cubans without receiving large sums of money - just the opposite. I've been approached by a great many people. They come with the aim of offering you money to play in a team. It doesn't have to be any team in particular."

■ *A Diamond In The Rough* can be seen on BBC2 today at 8.15pm.

As his men searched the town, Castro sat on a box, conversing about baseball with townspeople and eating fish with his fingers

## Bishop's Stortford hindered by an Anglo-Saxon plot

HERE'S A new year quiz question - which football team plays its home matches at Saffron Walden, St Albans, Ware, Dagenham, Borehamwood and Hitchin? The answer is displayed on a new sign, half a mile up our road, pointing off to an industrial estate - Bishop's Stortford FC. Here lies the problem.

Bishop's Stortford FC are not to be found within the industrial estate; nor indeed within the town whose name they bear.

Since December 1997, when the ground it had inhabited for more than 60 years was sold off for redevelopment, the club's proposed transfer to a new stadium on a green-field site has suffered a succession of hitches. In the meantime, its team has come to resemble an ever-changing band of roving players whose results have been, well, motley.



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Last season, relegation from the Ryman League Premier Division was narrowly avoided. This season, which the team was supposed to have begun in its new home - pause for hollow laughter from supporters - the drop beckons again.

As a young reporter, I followed Bishop's Stortford FC - the last winners of the old FA Amateur Cup - when they returned to Wembley in 1961 and won the FA Trophy. The following year, they gave a Middlesex side managed by the Fedorid One, Malcolm Allison, a replay and a run for their money in the FA Cup.

Hark, did you hear that sound? I believe it was a far cry. But Stortford's uneven form of late is hardly surprising given the off-field turmoil.

The sale of the old Rhodes Avenue ground raised a reported total of £1.5million to be sunk into the new venture close to the M11 motorway - although a sizeable chunk ended up in the pockets of the legal fraternity following a public inquiry into the move.

As a sequence of practical problems has pushed the moving-in day relentlessly back from September, the pot has been diminished by unforeseen costs for the extra travelling and hiring of grounds. Not to mention the £1,000 fine imposed by the Ryman League for every home fixture which has to be played on another club's ground.

These problems. Let's take a look at them.

There's the access road problem. (Isn't there always, in these cases?) Uncertainties over fire and safety certificates. Delays because of drainage difficulties. Delays because of Anglo-Saxons, or perhaps even more ancient English folk.

The latter hitch came to Bishop's Stortford FC courtesy of the Herts Archaeological Trust, who investi-

gated the site during early excavation work.

"They found the remains of an old post and some broken crockery," Gareth Stephens, chairman of the Stortford Supporters' Club, said. "That meant they wanted to do a fuller investigation." As it happened, the Trust identified what they believe was a settlement which pre-dated Roman times. Fab news for archaeologists; enough to start local football supporters digging their own holes.

Then there is the ongoing dispute over the size of the advertising boards currently displayed outside the site. The local authority deemed they were too big, causing a potential distraction to passing motorists. As one of those motorists, I can vouch for the fact that they are all extremely dull - but what does

it matter what I think? Then there is the ongoing difficulty with the floodlights. Or more precisely, the amount of upward light spillage from the floodlights, which operators at nearby Stansted Airport fear might distract their pilots. The airport is keeping an open mind on the question until the lights are operating; the club, meanwhile, must keep handy an open cheque book.

"There has been a catalogue of things going wrong," Stephens said. "And it is easy for those close to the club to get paranoid and think that everyone is against us." I guess that's why they call them The Blues. The ever-shifting schedule proved too much for one of the players earlier this season. Wrongly assuming that Stortford's match against Enfield was at Enfield, he discovered it was, of course, at

Borehamwood. He turned up too late even to be named as a substitute, and parted company with the club soon after.

The club has also parted company with not one, but two managers this season. Having dispensed with the luckless Paul Taylor after a few games, they decided last month to get rid of the likeable but imprudent Terry "If they score five, we'll score six" Back. It now falls to player-manager Terry Robbins, a former Welling United hotshot, to guide the itinerant footsteps.

Stephens rallies gamely when it is put to him that all the wandering, and waiting might prove not to be worthwhile. "Definitely not," he says. "Maybe in two months' time we will be in our new ground and this will all be behind us." But he doesn't sound convinced.



# Golden and green look to Best's Exiles

With southern hemisphere imports at the heart of the former England coach's revolution at Sunbury, London Irish are bubbling again. By Chris Hewett

TO A certain section of the rugby community, the new London Irish is the sporting equivalent of a bad pint of Guinness. "The club is supposed to cater for all ex-pats in the capital, but it doesn't," means Mick Doyle, man of Blackrock and a former green-shirted Five Nations warrior of considerable repute. "I would despise us becoming like Richmond or Harlequins, who have almost no home-grown players left," says Ken Kennedy, a tough nut of a Lions booker who played much of his club rugby - and consumed much of his black stuff - on the emerald acres of Sunbury-on-Thames.

The Exiles can do nothing right, it seems. After years of soaking up stick from the Little Englanders - "Why do we let them play in our league when they contribute nothing to our national side?" - they are now catching it in the neck from their own, who complain that, in their present manifestation, they contribute even less to Ireland. And on the face of it, the critics have a case. Instead of Jeremy Davidson, Mark McCall, David Humphreys and Ken O'Connell, Irish internationals all, the Sunburyites have Ryan Strudwick, Brendan Venter, Steve Bapoch and Rob Gallagher: two South Africans, one Western Samoan All Black and an Aussie. The only Cork among that lot is the one hanging from Mr Gallagher's hat.

Needless to say, it is not an argument that remotely impresses Dick Best. The Exiles' director of rugby is an old Harlequin of many years' standing, a former England coach and

about as Irish as a cucumber sandwich. He is also one of rugby's most enthusiastic new age travellers, a hard-boiled pragmatist who recognises and revels in the realities of professional union.

Asked to carry out a root and branch reorganisation of the club's playing structure, he set about the task with customary ruthlessness; there would be no respect for tradition, no truck with nostalgia, no sentiment whatsoever.

And no regrets, either. "When the club told me to restructure," recalls Best, "I said: 'Fine, but you should understand

*'The Little Englanders probably don't know this but there are 19 English-qualified players in the squad'*

stand that the Irish Rugby Union is on the case and that you're going to lose a lot of personnel'. Basically, the Irish blackmailed their players into going back home. It was the old 'Play here or we won't pick you' tactic and it meant that a whole recruitment link had effectively been severed.

"I had two choices: I could either attempt to pick up existing Premiership players who had fallen out of contract or I could go looking overseas. I opted for the latter."

Armed with what he describes as his "mental shopping list", Best marched boldly into

the southern hemisphere market place and bought in bulk. Venter, the former Springbok centre from the high veld of the Free State and an "absolute phenomenon" in the considered opinion of the coach, was among the first to take the bait, followed by a stack of fellow Super 12ers: Simon Berridge, Jake Boer and Kevin Putt from South Africa, Jarrod Cunningham and Michael Howe from New Zealand. Best habitually describes these reinforcements as "the cavalry" or the "full metal jacket" and confidently expects them to establish London Irish as a genuine Premiership power.

That confidence appears well placed. Successive victories over Harlequins (sheer bliss for Best and his old coaching mucker, Andy Keast) and Richmond have given Conor O'Shea's side a threatening air and another two points against Newcastle, the inconsistent champions, at Sunbury this afternoon would send Irish into Tuesday night's crunch encounter at Northampton on a high of unprecedented altitude.

"It's a big period for us, certainly, but we're much better equipped to cope with the demands," says Best. "We could now put out a second team infinitely superior to anything available to us last season and that is indicative of the increased competition for places. Take Isaac Pheumani, for instance. He was far and away our best forward last season, to the extent that we depended almost totally on his ability to carry the ball up. Now that the strength of the squad runs so



Dick Best, the London Irish director of rugby: 'No one, but no one, has thrashed us this season'

Allsport

much deeper, that dependency has gone. Isaac is a little low on confidence after recovering from a very bad knee injury, so we're not rushing him back. A year ago, we'd have played him on one leg.

"Most of the new players had never even heard of London Irish when the initial contact was made and they weren't at all convinced that we were as

serious about our rugby as we claimed, but, once we started getting the odd signature on the odd contract, the recruitment process snowballed. Now I'd say I was 98 per cent happy with what I have, although I'm very aware that the World Cup this autumn will be a watershed for a lot of southern hemisphere talent and that we'll have to keep pace with every other

Premiership side by continuing to strengthen.

"What I'm not at all happy about is the absence of any interest from the England management. The Little Englanders probably don't know this, but there are 19 English-qualified players in the current squad. I don't get too many national selectors banging on my door and that amazes me;

for starters, I can't believe there are many better loose-head props available to Clive Woodward than Neal Hadley."

Best will be pleasantly surprised if his side pitches permanent camp in the top four - "If you bring in 20 players, they take time to knit together" - and positively incandescent if they end up co-habiting with the relegation candidates. "We've

planned for an honest mid-table position this season and we're pretty much on course he says. "We're still missing the beat in too many games, but we've stopped falling apart in the last quarter through lack of fitness. No one, but no one, he thrashed us this season and don't think anyone will, either. We're no soft touch. Not at more."

## Coaches face a day of destiny at Kingsholm

THE DREADED three Ms - meaningless, mid-table and mediocrity - were always likely to hover over too large a proportion of this season's Allied Dunbar Premiership, simply because the professional clubs over-egged their own soufflé by insisting on a top-heavy top flight of 14 teams. Neither Gloucester nor Bath see it quite that way, however. Mid-table they may be, mediocre they most certainly are, but it is hard to recall a more meaningful West Country derby than this afternoon's tribal set-to at Kingsholm.

In short, it is win or bust for both sides; or, to be absolutely accurate, both coaches. Richard Hill and Andy Robinson, two outstanding England

BY CHRIS HEWETT

internationals who spent their entire club careers manacled together in common cause, are once again occupying the same storm-tossed boat, even though Hill left Bath for Gloucester three long years ago. Betrayed by under-performing players, lambasted by frustrated supporters and crippled by misfortune, the former brothers in arms are now being asked some hard questions by their respective proprietors.

The potential ramifications of failing to come up with the right answers between 2pm and 3.30 today are too painful to contemplate. If Robinson's appointment of a director of rugby to fill the yawning chasm

successive Premiership defeats, a 50-point shafting at Swansea and the abrupt departure of his closest boardroom ally, Tony Swift - Hill is not exactly in the pink. A particularly vocal section of the Kingsholm congregation holds him personally responsible for driving Phil Greening, the England hooker, out of Gloucester and there is much talk of an uneasy relationship with both Dave Sims, the club captain, and Tom Walkinshaw, the club owner. Defeat for either side will leave the coach dangerously exposed.

Andrew Brownwood, Bath's multi-millionaire backer, is known to be contemplating the appointment of a director of rugby to fill the yawning chasm

that, with Swift gone, now exists between the dressing room and the boardroom. The senior players will defend the popular Robinson with every last breath in their body, but they need to start punching their weight if they are to see him through the most precarious few weeks of his professional career.

For the moment, Robinson insists that the solution to his side's problems must come from within. It is the time-honoured Bath way - slam the door shut on the outsiders, lay the issues bare and come out fighting - and to that end, Robinson has picked the meanest, nastiest band of silt-eyed gun-slingers at his disposal. Mark Regan returns at hooker, Richard Webster and Eric Pe-

ters play in tandem on the flanks and, most importantly, Joe Callard relieves Matt Perry of the No 15 shirt, not just because of his goal-kicking but because his ability to mix it with the enemy.

"It had to be done," the coach explained yesterday. "It's no reflection on Matt, who is a fabulous player, and it is nothing against Mike Catt's kicking. Mike remains a very good kicker and we won seven of our first eight league games with him performing that role. But we have to go back to Jon for this one and the whole squad understand the reasons why. He is our best kicker and we need someone on the pitch saying: 'This is the way we're going to do it.'"

Gloucester, meanwhile, restore Nathan Carter to the back-row equation in place of Kingsley Jones, the former Wales captain who ruptured an Achilles tendon at Wasps last Sunday. Hill prefers Mark Mapletoft to Simon Mannix at stand-off and Scott Benton to Ian Sanders at scrum-half, while Neil McCarthy gets a start at hooker ahead of Chris Forsey. Philippe Saint-André, the inspirational Frenchman, has recovered from a thigh strain and plays on the left wing.

Saint-André gives the Cherry and Whites so many attacking options that they go into a blind panic every time he is late for training; hence their determination to expand their pool

of wings by signing Tom Beim, one of the very few successful England tourists in New Zealand last summer, from Sale.

Beim, a Kingsholm old boy who moved north in 1996, is expected to agree a two-year deal over the weekend.

There are no such insecurities at Northampton these days; with world-class talents like Pat Lam and Freddie Mendez playing at something approaching Test pitch, the Saints are good value for their elevated position in the Premiership table. A year ago, when the Midlands were still incapacitated by their own inconsistency, few would have backed them to win at Sale. They should do so this afternoon, though. "We cannot afford to fail," said Matt Dawson, the England scrum-half, with the confidence of a man who knows his side are on a hot streak.

"Despite having batches of Test players, we have never finished higher than fourth in the league," added Dawson, who, occasional goal-kicking accounted for Gary Teichmann record-chasing Springboks at Twickenham last month.

"Now we have the chance going joint top with Leicester but we have to keep reminding ourselves that we have nothing. Sale stand in our way this weekend, just as they do the first time he finished a year outside the top 10 since 1997. "My off-season has been a bit longer, I have had a couple of months off now," Chas said. "I took some weeks off to rest and recuperate. I struggled a lot injury-wise last year. I think injuries hurt me more than anything else."

## Outcry over tennis girls' diets

Australian academy launches inquiry after players tell of eating disorders. By Jake Lynch in Sydney

THE PRESTIGIOUS Australian Institute of Sport has launched an investigation into claims by a group of women tennis players that they were forced into unsuitable diet regimes as part of their training, which left some with eating disorders.

The allegations involve 34 former scholarship holders at the Institute, beginning in 1981 but including some who were being coached at Canberra as recently as three years ago.

One former national junior champion, Esther Knox, lost over half a stone in nine days on what she described as "a semi-starvation diet" consisting of just fruit for breakfast and lunch, and small portions of meat and salad for dinner.

But the worst moment of her internship, in 1992-93, came when her coach, Peter Campbell, videoed his slimmer-down charge in action and, Ms Knox alleges, focussed the camera on her legs, "to show me how much better I looked. I was completely humiliated."

Another player, Brenda Catton, has recalled how pressure to lose weight from her coach at the Institute led to her "vomiting before each match" including games at Wimbledon in 1987, when she had lost nearly

two stone in weight. Soon after arriving on her scholarship, she says, coach Ray Ruffels would call her "fat and slow" and began to pick on her for being unable to lift weights. She developed anorexia nervosa, and later bulimia, which took 10 years to overcome.

"The only reason I developed anorexia was to please Ray," Ms Catton told the Sydney Daily Telegraph. "They were always on to me about losing weight." Mr Ruffels, who left the AIS in 1990, denied calling her fat, though he conceded that he tried to instil a "disciplined" approach to diet.

Another girl, Renée Reid, responded to similar pressures by going on eating binges. The first her parents knew of the problem, after two years of her scholarship, was when the AIS sent her a memo to the family home, dated February 28, 1995, after a tournament in Ballarat, Victoria.

In it, her coach at the Institute, Chris Kachel, wrote: "Following the results of your physical testing at last week's

AIS scholarship holders' camp, I am writing to express my supreme disappointment."

"It is unacceptable for an AIS tennis athlete to have a skinfold reading of 181, when the expected range is approximately 80-100." The memo confirmed the suspension of scholarship entitlements, including an allowance worth A\$300 per week for financial support while playing in overseas tournaments, though the player herself had been told verbally, in front of other trainees.

Her mother, Sandra Reid, said: "Renée had three options - anorexia, bulimia or eat - that's what happens to girls if they are called fat. I'm glad she did go out and eat because if she chose the other alternatives she would be dead."

Another former trainee, Linda Cassell, who is now a mum, recalled hearing her fellow players, in 1981-82, vomiting in the bathrooms under a regime which, she said, placed more stress on players' appearance in their tennis outfits than the actual level of performance.

"They lived on lettuce, they jogged in glad wrap by night," Ms Reid complained that, when she was removed from the programme, she had proved herself capable of beating other, slimmer trainees on court.

The allegations have brought to a head long-standing criticisms of AIS methods, widely admired and emulated in other sports, being applied to tennis players. Margaret Court, an Australian sporting legend for her feats as the only woman to win the Grand Slam of all four major championships in the same calendar year, said the game at the top level required individual coaching.

"I believe champions are very sensitive," she declared. "When they get into squad coaching at an early age, they get walked over, they all look like robots. I wouldn't have survived if I had gone into the AIS."

Australia's current big name tennis stars are both men - Mark Philippoussis, who has always been coached by his father, albeit with financial support from the AIS, and

Patrick Rafter, a "late developer" who only reached his top 10 status well after he started working with a full-time individual coach.

In a media release, the AIS points to more modest successes by female graduates of its coaching system, with Annabelle Elwood, who achieved a world ranking of 55, and Alicia Molik, who rose during her internship from 660 to 163, being the most notable.

The Institute's director, John Boulton, said neither he nor his coaching staff could be blamed for Australia's failure to produce outstanding women tennis players to set alongside world-beating alumni from programmes in athletics, water sports and a host of other fields.

Mr Boulton plans to interview journalists, officials, former coaches and players to get to the bottom of the matter. But he added: "Surely Australian taxpayers wouldn't expect coaches to stand by and allow athletes not to achieve fitness levels at the expense of other committed athletes who can meet those criteria." Despite the help of a range of professionals, trainees themselves were "accountable on issues such as fitness and discipline."

## Hingis refreshed and aiming for top again

BY MARK PIERSON

MARTINA HINGIS is determined to use the Hopman Cup mixed teams event in Perth as a means to regain her top ranking in women's tennis.

The 18-year-old lost the top ranking to the American, Lindsay Davenport, in October but later beat her to take the Chase title in New York. Now refreshed after a six-week break, she is anxious to recover lost ground. "Of course! Who wouldn't be," she said. "I've been there at the top and want to have the feeling back again. I want to be the best again. My other aim for this year is to win a Grand Slam, to have fun and take it as it comes, and be well prepared for every match."

Hingis does not have much time to settle in the Hopman Cup team event. After playing against the defending champions, the Slovak Republic, on Tuesday, she faces Davenport on Thursday as Switzerland takes on the United States.

"It's going to be a good match for sure, with the number one and two players in the world," she said. "I had a great finish to '98 by beating Dav-

enport, so we'll see what's going to happen."

Hingis remains unbeaten in singles on her two previous visits to the Hopman Cup, with seven wins. Last year she missed the event and feels that was a mistake.

"I played Sydney and won Melbourne last year but I came to Australia too late," Hingis admitted. "The Hopman Cup is great preparation for the Australian Open."

Hingis partners the newcomer Ivo Hengberger in the mixed doubles. When the German-speaking Hingis previously partnered the French-speaking Marc Rosset they had to converse in English, and that sometimes led to misunderstandings. "We don't have any language problems," Hingis said. "We know each other very well from juniors."

Play in the only international team competition to feature a mixed doubles combination gets under way today when France and Zimbabwe meet in a qualifying match.

Teams are split into two groups. Group A has Spain featuring the French Open champions, Carlos Moya, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, South Africa, Australia and the former France or Zimbabwe Group B is made up of the United States, Switzerland, Sweden and the Slovak Republic.

After a two-month break from tennis, Michael Chang back in action at the Australian Open. Knee and wrist injuries caused Chang's ranking slump to 29 by the end of 1997, the first time he finished a year outside the top 10 since 1997.

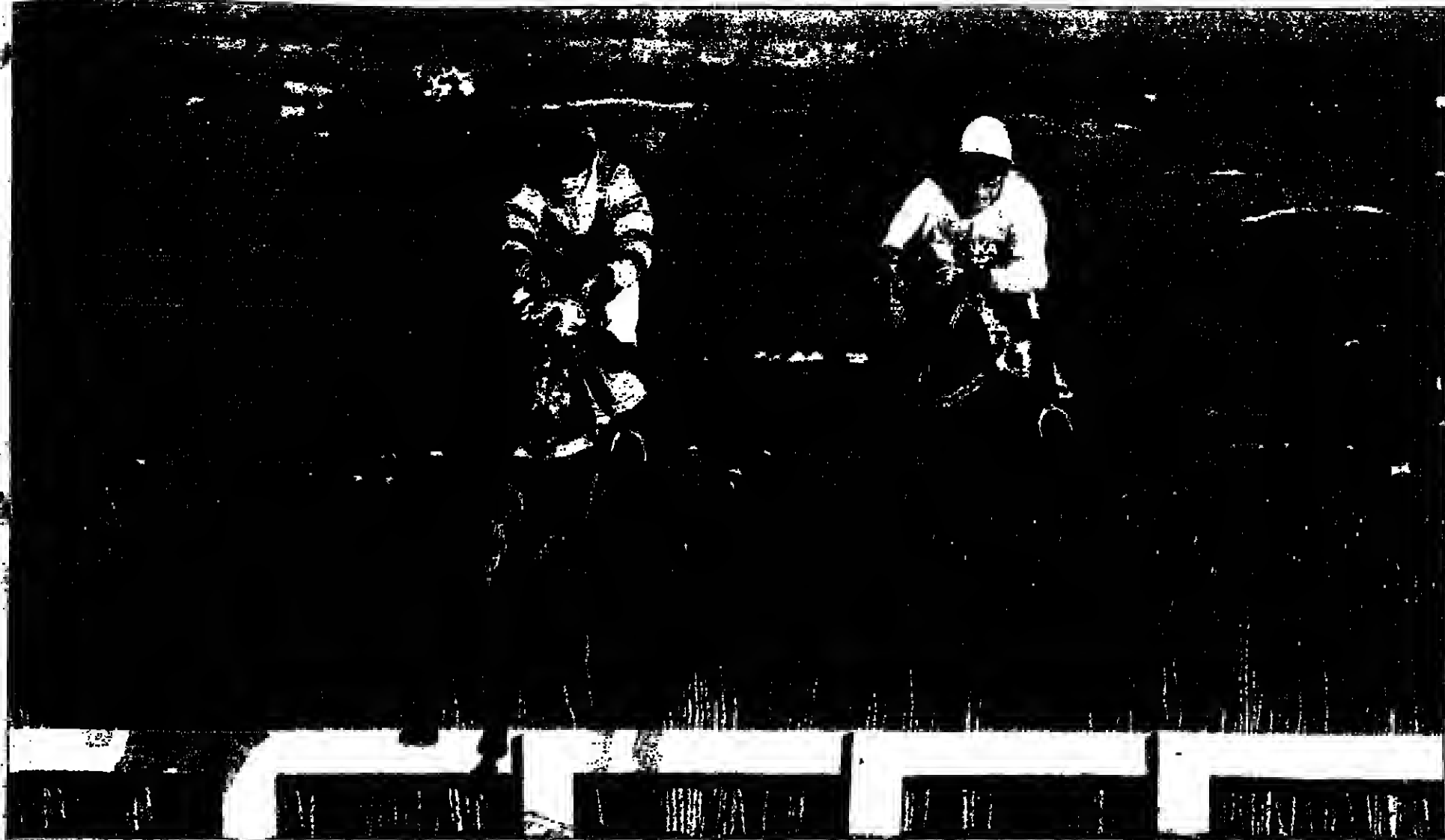
"My off-season has been a bit longer, I have had a couple of months off now," Chas said. "I took some weeks off to rest and recuperate. I struggled a lot injury-wise last year. I think injuries hurt me more than anything else."

Chang is seeded sixth in the tournament that starts on Monday in Adelaide. The top seed is the US Open champion Patrick Rafter, who is followed by Thomas Enqvist and Gustavo Kuerten.









Adrian Maguire and Baronet (left) get the better of a long duel with Jamie Osborne on Him Of Praise at Cheltenham yesterday

Julian Herbert/Allsport

# Right time for Topton Maguire hits back at critics

WHEN STEPHEN Winstanley, the owner of Tooton Mill, found Venetia Williams's phone number permanently engaged a couple of weeks ago, he asked her afterwards if she had been phoning Channel 4 time and again to vote for herself as the Racing Personality of the Year. He was joking, of course, not only because Williams is famously modest, but also because this was one person-of-the-year poll which required no rigging.

The punters voted for Venetia by the thousand, grateful for 12 months of almost uninterrupted success. Williams started 1999 in similar vein at Cheltenham yesterday, when Lady Rebecca won for the fifth time in six outings, and her ever-growing band of followers may look no further than the

ground, and gets more than a stone from the favourite, while Ask Antology, whose trainer, Paul Nicholls, has an even better strike-rate than Williams this season, is another with every chance on the book. In fact, there are more than enough possibilities to make this a no-

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Nap: McHattie  
(Uttowater 3.25)  
NB: Flying Gunner  
(Uttowater 2.25)

bet contest, although those who really must could do worse than chance Kiltington, who returned to form last time after dropping down the weights, at the early 9-1.

The Challow Hurdle too is difficult to sort out, despite the

lack of runners. All five go to post with some sort of chance, although King's Road, the bumper winner at both the Aintree and Punchestown Festivals last season, will probably start favourite. A serious alternative, however, is Rio's King (next best 2.45), who did not get the best of rides when beaten into third in a hot race at Cheltenham. Despite that defeat, he is a horse of considerable potential.

The final race on the Newbury card contains many punters' idea of the banker of the day in the shape of Bold Gait. Formerly a useful handicapper on the Flat, Bold Gait has won his last two starts over hurdles with ridiculous ease, in the process beating Tutchev, who would surely have won at

### UTTOXETER

HYPERION

12.55 Manassis	2.25 Cool Spring
1.25 Trakel	2.55 Belmonte Bruno
1.55 LISTEN TIMMY (map)	3.25 McHattie

GOING: Soft (odd heavy patch).

Left-hand course. Run-in of 100yds.

Course is 55 of 100m (100yds). Standard (Dart-Crowe) 100yds. ADMIS- SION: Club £5 (OAPs £2). Terraces £10 (OAPs £7). Centre £5. CAR PARK: Free. 20-107 (18.7%), 8 Brookshaw 10-99 (21.3%).

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 33-21 (27.3%), O Nicholson 22-100 (22%), K Bailey 20-107 (18.7%), 8 Brookshaw 10-99 (21.3%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 31-15 (27%), R Dunwoody 23-17 (19.7%), N Williams 23-12 (18.7%), R Johnson 21-55 (14%).

FAVOURITES: 25-62 (27.8%).

BLINKER FIRST TIME: None.

### 12.55 CARLING ROCK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F)

£4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,710

1	25-62	MANASSIS (17) (G) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LL) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)
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Minimum weight: 10st. Two handicap weights: Days Of Thunder 10st 10lb, Follow De Call 10st 5lb. SETTING: 5-6 Centaur Express, 7-8 Winter Gully, 4-1 Beyond Our Reach, 5-1 Days Of Thunder, 5-1 Manassis, Follow De Call, 10-1 Aerial Invasion, 12-1 Northern Singer. 1998: Meeting abandoned due to rain.

### 1.25 PETER J DOUGLAS ENGINEERING SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G)

£2,000 added 2m Penalty Value £1,555

1	25-62	MANASSIS (17) (G) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)
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Minimum weight: 10st. Two handicap weights: Days Of Thunder 10st 10lb, Follow De Call 10st 5lb. SETTING: 5-6 Centaur Express, 7-8 Winter Gully, 4-1 Beyond Our Reach, 5-1 Days Of Thunder, 5-1 Manassis, Follow De Call, 10-1 Aerial Invasion, 12-1 Northern Singer. 1998: Meeting abandoned due to rain.

### 1.55 LADBROKE LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (C)

£10,000 added 3m Penalty Value £7,068

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Minimum weight: 10st. Two handicap weights: Days Of Thunder 10st 10lb, Follow De Call 10st 5lb. SETTING: 5-6 Centaur Express, 7-8 Winter Gully, 4-1 Beyond Our Reach, 5-1 Days Of Thunder, 5-1 Manassis, Follow De Call, 10-1 Aerial Invasion, 12-1 Northern Singer. 1998: Meeting abandoned due to rain.

### 2.25 CAFFEY'S IRISH ALE HANDICAP HURDLE (C)

£10,000 3m 110yds Penalty Value £7,003

1	25-62	MANASSIS (17) (G) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)
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Minimum weight: 10st. Two handicap weights: Days Of Thunder 10st 10lb, Follow De Call 10st 5lb. SETTING: 5-6 Centaur Express, 7-8 Winter Gully, 4-1 Beyond Our Reach, 5-1 Days Of Thunder, 5-1 Manassis, Follow De Call, 10-1 Aerial Invasion, 12-1 Northern Singer. 1998: Meeting abandoned due to rain.

### 2.50 RACING CHANNEL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E)

£5,000 2m 4f

1	25-62	MANASSIS (17) (G) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR
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# Sailor sparks Leeds revival

A FIGHTBACK triggered by a memorable try from Wendell, Leeds saw Leeds snatch an unlikely victory with which to launch 1999 at Headingley yesterday.

Castleford were 21-4 ahead and on their way to a morale-boosting win when, 18 minutes into the second half, the Brisbane Broncos and Australia wing playing the second of his holiday games for his adopted club, fielded a kick deep in his own half.

His strength took him through a congested midfield and then his pace saw him beat the defence to the corner flag.

"I haven't been playing well," said Sailor, who lost the ball for one of Castleford's tries. "I just needed a really good run and when I beat the first defender and saw some space in front of me I just pinned back my ears."

It was not just the try, but his spectacular nature, that lifted Leeds. "I don't think there's many players in the world who could score a try like that," said Iestyn Harris, the Leeds captain. "It shows his class if he can make something out of nothing and it really sparked our comeback."

Harris, although off-form

## RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Leeds 26  
Halifax 21

with his goal-kicking, also played a major role in the rescue act. Both he and the young second-rower, Gareth Carvell, kept the ball alive for Adam Hughes to go in for the first of his two tries and Harris himself then got around the outside of the defence for the four points that brought Leeds within range.

Switched to stand-off for the final quarter, Harris also provided the long pass that skimmed Darren Rogers's fingertips but put Hughes in the clear. He could not land the conversion, but with four minutes remaining, he put over the penalty, awarded against Lee Harland for stealing the ball, that gave Leeds the lead for the first time.

In injury time, Ryan Sheridan, another major contributor to Leeds's fightback, found a gap and the home side, for all their early problems, were safe.

"I'm not down-hearted, because for 60 minutes we were the better side and a lot of good



The Castleford defence finds Brian McDermott, the Leeds prop, difficult to stop at Headingley yesterday

Andrew Varley

things came out of it," said Castleford's acting coach, Graham Steadman.

His side were certainly in command during the first half, with Dean Sampson leading from the front and the former Leeds player, Francis Maloney, orchestrating the back-line impressively.

It was Sampson who scored the first try, driving over after only two minutes, and he was also involved in the build-up when Danny Orr's pass sent Ian Tonks over midway through the half.

Kevin Sinfield, just 18-years-old, pulled one back for Leeds, showing that he already knows

exactly how to run on to Harris's passes, and Leeds could feel relieved to be only six points behind at the break.

Castleford's new signing, Mike Eagar, and Maloney did the lead up work for Gael Tallec to score early in the second half and Maloney added a drop goal and then supplied the pass

that enabled Rogers, another Castleford newcomer to score.

Everything was set up for Castleford to claim a result that they always enjoy, no matter what the nature of the game.

"We have kept Sailor pretty quiet, but you only need one chance when you've got players

of that quality and he came up trumps for them," Steadman said.

Leeds: Harris, Sailor, Hughes, Godden, Cummins, Pratt, Sheridan, Field, Jackson, McDermott, Carvell, Glanville, Sinfield, Substitutes used: Lawford, Golden, Chapman, Whitworth, Jones, Ward, Castleford: Flowers, Gay, Wells, Eagar, Rogers, Maloney, Orr, Sampson, Dobson, Syles, Hall, Tonks, Harland, Substitutes used: Ellis, Riley, Tallec, Lynch. Referee: N Oddy (Leeds).

# Barneveld accent on cockney's double top

## DARTS

THE TOP-SEEDED Dutchman, Raymond Barneveld, will be attempting to become only the second player to successfully defend his title at the Embassy World Championship, which begins at Frimley Green today.

Eric Bristow, the legendary "crafty cockney" and "Arkie of darts", who won the championship in 1980 and 1981 and again from 1984 to 1986, achieved the feat twice, and Barneveld would dearly like to join him in the record books.

The Dutchman, now 31, believes he is playing better now than when he won the title 12 months ago. Then he was still working as a postman but after collecting a £40,000 cheque for winning the Embassy he turned professional a month later.

"I used to get up at six o'clock in the morning when I was a postman and I did not play as much darts as I would have liked," he said.

"Now I can take my three children to school, spend far more time with them and also play a lot more darts."

"But I am lucky. I am one of those players who doesn't need to practise for eight hours a day. I like to relax before my matches and only pick up my darts for a few throws about two hours before I'm due on stage."

Barneveld was also Embassy runner-up in 1995 when he was beaten by Welshman Richie Burnett. But he gained revenge by beating Burnett 6-5 in a breath-taking final last year.

He is clearly a man in form. Only last week Barneveld won the British Open with a 2-0 victory over Peter Manley, of Surrey, in the final.

Many people believe the Skol World Darts Championship, being staged at Purfleet, is the superior event in world darts because they have most of the better known players in their 32-strong field.

However, it is not that simple. The Embassy has far greater strength in depth and for the past four years has consistently produced the better averages. It also has far better prize money - £167,200 compared with £97,000 - at Purfleet, with a first prize of £42,000 as against £30,000 in the Skol event.

Four world champions will be in the field. They are Barneveld, Burnett, Steve Beaton, who won in 1996, and Les Wallace, the 1997 winner.

# Radcliffe and Brown delve into Durham mud

DURHAM'S ANNUAL cross-country race is assured a captive audience when it starts this morning. The course for the IAAF World Cross Challenge event is overlooked by Durham Jail. If any of the 1,200 inmates are allowed to take a peek, they - along with viewers of BBC Grandstand - are likely to witness two highly competitive races in which home hopes will rest with Paula Radcliffe and Jon Brown.

Radcliffe, who won her first senior title when she became

## ATHLETICS

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

European cross-country champion last month, faces a field which includes the 1996 world cross-country champion, Geta Wami of Ethiopia, Annemari Sandell of Finland, runner-up in this year's European race, and Joyce Chepchumba of Kenya, the 1997 London Marathon champion.

The 25-year-old Bedford runner has spent a fortnight at her

new apartment in the high altitude training environment of Font Romeu while recovering from a cold. "I took things a little easier than usual in training," she said. Presumably that meant cutting down to around 100 miles a week.

Suitably restored, she will take to the mud seeking her third victory in the event, although she is not taking anything for granted. "It's going to be a very tough race," she said, adding that Chepchumba, who edged Liz McColgan out of a

second London title after a compelling final sprint down The Mall, could be the one to watch out for.

Wami has already proven herself at the highest level, and if Radcliffe had been even faintly forgetful of her ability the memories will have been restored after their race in Brussels a week after Radcliffe won her title, when Wami won and the British runner was a distant fourth.

Another Ethiopian runner appears likely to prove the

main obstacle to Brown winning a third consecutive Durham race - the world junior 5,000 metres champion, Million Wolde.

The 19-year-old appears to have been presciently named; in his home country he is being described as the man most likely to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious - and very rich - compatriot, Haile Gebrselassie.

Richard Nerurkar, preparing himself for the London Marathon, will also provide a

challenge to Brown, along with the former Olympic 10,000 metres champion, Khalid Skah and Kenya's Thomas Nyariki, fourth in the last world championships.

Brown flew back to Britain on Monday from his home base in Vancouver to prepare himself for what will be his first race since he broke Eamonn Martin's 10-year-old British 10,000m record at the Brussels grand prix. "It normally takes me four days to recover from jet lag, so I should be okay," said

Brown, who is talking in terms of a top-three place in his first competitive outing in four months.

The 1996 European cross-country champion has also confirmed he would be available this year to contest the world cross-country championships in Belfast at the end of March. "If selected," Brown added.

As usual, the Durham event will contain a middle distance event, which this year will feature European indoor 3,000m champion, John Mayock.

# No style change for Reading KTM riders shine in Spain

READING, WHO surprised everyone by winning the National Indoor title last February, face strong opposition in their pool in the two-day DTZ Invitation Tournament which starts at two centres in the Midlands today. It will come from Southgate, masquerading as Dumton, another club who have not always taken the indoor game seriously.

Sadly, Elio Rotti, who was the pillar of Southgate's side which qualified for next weekend's preliminaries of the National Championship, will not be back from Germany in time.

## HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

Dumton, however, expect to include the Australian international Neil Hawgood and Todd Williams, Australian Grant von Mayer and Trinidad's captain, Kwadwo Brown. Their most influential player may still be home-grown Pietro Atzala, who will not be available to them in the Nationals.

Reading see the DTZ event as the start of their campaign to put England back into the A Division of the European competition

which they will aim to do in Prague at the end of February, but they seem unlikely to change their style of indoor hockey.

Their manager, Mike Webb, confirmed that they would have a full squad, adding: "We play as we play."

International opposition will come from the Vikings - the Danish national squad.

Olton and West Warwick, whose goalkeeper Carl Price collapsed and died during the Midland qualifier on 19 December, have decided to play a mark of respect to his family and many friends in hockey.

The final stage of the qualifier, which was postponed when he collapsed, between Barford Tigers, Stourport, Leek and Loughborough Students will be held on Wednesday night at Lilleshall.

The Women's National Indoor League gets under way this weekend with Division One at East Grinstead and Division Two at Loughborough University.

Gill Clarke, who umpired the World Cup final in the Netherlands in the summer, has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

## WEDNESDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE

Draw date: 30/12/98. The winning numbers: 3, 13, 18, 24, 34, 49. Bonus number: 33.

Total Sales: £30,232,121. Prize Fund: £13,604,454 (45% of ticket sale).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	1	£1,443,183	£4,329,489
Match 5 plus bonus ball	11	£121,104	£1,332,144
Match 5	530	£1,570	£832,100
Match 4	27,863	£68	£1,825,758
Match 3	527,851	£10	£5,278,510
TOTALS	556,058		£13,568,001

© Camelot Group plc. Players must be 18 or over.

## RALLYING

THE PROLOGUE. KTM repeated their dominance with nine motorcycles in the leading 10 after placing eight machines in the first 10 of the prologue.

In the car section, the Spaniard Miguel Prieto pleased local fans with a fastest time of 5min 47sec, edging the race favourites, Kenjiro Shinozuka of Japan and France's Jean-Pierre Fontenay. The trio were driving Mitsubishi.

The Frenchman Jean-Louis Schlesser, in his Schlesser-Renault Megane, was second

tively, were first and second in the prologue.

The race will start in earnest today, with the 654km second stage from Rabat to Agadir including a 100km timed section.

Mitsubishi, winners of the last two Dakar rallies, were confirmed as favourites to make it three in a row when Shinozuka won the prologue. Shinozuka and the Frenchman Henri Magne won in 5min 11sec on a muddy 5km timed section near Granada.

The Frenchman Jean-Louis Schlesser, in his Schlesser-Renault Megane, was second

fastest and is likely to be a main threat to the Mitsubishi. Fontenay was third, with Mitsubishi placing six cars in the top 10.

Dakar Rally (Granada, Sp) First stage Cars: 1 M Prieto (Sp) Mitsubishi 5min 47sec; 2 K Shinozuka (Japan) Mitsubishi +3sec; 3 J Fontenay (Fr) Mitsubishi +7; 4 J Kleinschmidt (Ger) Mitsubishi +10; 5 J M Serva (Sp) Schlesser +12; 6 H Matsuoka (Japan) Mitsubishi +14; 7 G de Mevius (Bel) Nissan +15; 8 S Perrenhans (Fr) Nissan same time; 9 C Souza (Por) Mitsubishi +21; 10 S Serva (Sp) Nissan +22. Motorcycles: 1 O Von Zitzewitz (Ger) KTM 5min 25sec; 2 G Salo (Fin) KTM +5sec; 3 J Mayer (Germany) KTM +6; 4 J Roma (Sp) KTM s/t; 5 F Faisola (It) KTM +8; 6 R Saint (Fr) BMW +10; 7 W Hutton (Nethy) +12; 8 K Taiten (Fin) KTM +13; 9 P Marques (Por) KTM +15; 10 A Perez (Fr) KTM +17.

## SPORTING DIGEST

### ATHLETICS

SPANISH 1500M ROAD RACE (Esp) Paula Pavia (Sp) 45:00; 2 P Torres (Esp) 45:00; 3 E Lopez (Esp) 45:07; 4 S Guerra (Esp) 45:16; 5 J Guiso (Esp) 45:20; 6 B Ben (Esp) 45:37; 7 J de Souza (Esp) 45:57; 8 G de Asa (Bra) 46:05; 9 M Wam (Sp) 46:05; 10 Jovic (Slovak) 51min 35sec; 2 M Tencio (Sp) 51:55; 3 J Wam (Sp) 52:00; 4 E de la Fuente (Chile) 53:33; 5 C Maria Trineu (Bra) 53:56; 6 M Harich (Bra) 54:35; 7 W Guerra (Bra) 54:59; 8 R Raimundo Faria (Bra) 55:08.

### CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (First day of four): Hobart: Tasmania 293 for 5 (D J Marsh 77no; J Cox 77; S Young 76) v Victoria.

### NEW ZEALAND SQUAD (second Test v India, Hamilton, today): S P Fleming (capt), M J Horne, M O Bell, R C Jacobs, C McMillan, A C Parore (capt), C C Harris, O J Nash, O J Victor, S B Doull, G Allott, P J Wiseman.

### NEW ZEALAND SQUAD (first Test v India, Hamilton, today): S P Fleming (capt), M J Horne, M O Bell, R C Jacobs, C McMillan, A C Parore (capt), C C Harris, O J Nash, O J Victor, S B Doull, G Allott, P J Wiseman.

### FOOTBALL

#### SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Motherwell (1) - 1 Kilmarnock (1) - 2 Dundee 26  
McDuff 15  
McDuff 15

#### W D L F A Pts

Rangers 20 13 4 3 37 17 43  
Kilmarnock 21 11 7 3 30 12 40  
Dundee 20 9 6 5 42 20 33  
Glasgow Celtic 21 7 9 5 24 27 30  
Glasgow Rangers 22 6 8 2 31 24  
Dundee 21 6 5 10 22 23  
Dundee 20 6 5 10 22 23  
Dundee 20 6 5 10 22 23  
Dundee 20 6 5 10 22 23

#### DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division

Sheff Wed 5 Boro 3; 2 Boro 1; 3 Boro 1; 4 Boro 1; 5 Boro 1; 6 Boro 1; 7 Boro 1; 8 Boro 1; 9 Boro 1; 10 Boro 1; 11 Boro 1; 12 Boro 1; 13 Boro 1; 14 Boro 1; 15 Boro 1; 16 Boro 1; 17 Boro 1; 18 Boro 1; 19 Boro 1; 20 Boro 1; 21 Boro 1; 22 Boro 1; 23 Boro 1; 24 Boro 1; 25 Boro 1; 26 Boro 1; 27 Boro 1; 28 Boro 1; 29 Boro 1; 30 Boro 1; 31 Boro 1; 32 Boro 1; 33 Boro 1; 34 Boro 1; 35 Boro 1; 36 Boro 1; 37 Boro 1; 38 Boro 1; 39 Boro 1; 40 Boro 1; 41 Boro 1; 42 Boro 1; 43 Boro 1; 44 Boro 1; 45 Boro 1; 46 Boro 1; 47 Boro 1; 48 Boro 1; 49 Boro 1; 50 Boro 1; 51 Boro 1; 52 Boro 1; 53 Boro 1; 54 Boro 1; 55 Boro 1; 56 Boro 1; 57 Boro 1; 58 Boro 1; 59 Boro 1; 60 Boro 1; 61 Boro 1; 62 Boro 1; 63 Boro 1; 64 Boro 1; 65 Boro 1; 66 Boro 1; 67 Boro 1; 68 Boro 1; 69 Boro 1; 70 Boro 1; 71 Boro 1; 72 Boro 1; 73 Boro 1; 74 Boro 1; 75 Boro 1; 76 Boro 1; 77 Boro 1; 78 Boro 1; 79 Boro 1; 80 Boro 1; 81 Boro 1; 82 Boro 1; 83 Boro 1; 84 Boro 1; 85 Boro 1; 86 Boro 1; 87 Boro 1; 88 Boro 1; 89 Boro 1; 90 Boro 1; 91 Boro 1; 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## THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND GRAHAM SNOWDON

## Morley tackles a smaller Villa

THE NUMBER of famous ex-players gracing the nether regions of non-League football this season continues to grow. Following in the footsteps of Paul Stewart and Chris Waddle comes, this week, the former European Cup and League Championship winner Tony Morley, who turned out for Stratford Town in the Interlink Express Midlands Alliance at the age of 45 against... the Villa.

The years have clearly not robbed the former Aston Villa and England winger of all his pace and touch because he scored with an early goal on his debut, against a team called Pelsall Villa. But the bard's local team have suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune in the past week with the departure of manager Easton Shaw, his assistant and half a dozen players, and Pelsall came back to win 3-1.

Stratford's chairman Stuart Dixon, whose club face a relegation after just three wins all season, said: "Tony did very well and I would love to see him play regularly. There's no doubt he could do a job for us."

THE VISIT of Liverpool to Vale Park today in the FA Cup revives memories for Port Vale captain Neil Aspin of his formative years in the upper echelons of the game, at Leeds - and tough times they were by all accounts. He recalled how, on one occasion, fellow apprentice Mark Gavin, later of Bolton and Hearts, urinated in the sauna, unaware that first-teamers were due to use it later that day. When they got to hear of it Gavin was rolled around Elland Road car park in a giant wicker basket until he repented. Much worse was the fate suffered by other apprentices, who, for no apparent reason, were tied naked to goalposts in deep winter and pelted with snowballs by the pros while Aspin "cowered out of range somewhere". Not that he is the type to do so, but there will be no hiding place for central defender Aspin today against Owen and co.

FOOTBALL ANNUALS have a hard enough job remaining current without Bosman sticking his boot in. With freedom of contract it's difficult to say who's playing for whom from day to day

never mind year to year. An enterprising assistant at Waterstone's in Central Coventry, however, may have discovered a way of solving the problem. The front cover of the Sky Blues' diary for the season has a rather prominent picture of the departed "Villan" Dion Dublin on it. So what has the book shop done? Just reversed the cover. Darren Huckerby always did look better standing on his head, anyway. It was for a similar reason that a video of Goodison's greatest goals was not in any Evertonians' stocking this Christmas - Duncan Ferguson graced the box. The makers wisely decided to hold it back rather than risk adding to the Blues' misery over Xmas. Besides, Gary Speed was on the reverse cover - only joking.

**SONG SHEET**  
Optimism still abounds around Brunton Park, Carlisle.

One Fox on the shirt, Peter Beardsley scoring. Twenty-five years of leadership is calling.

We're going up, we're going up, we're going up, Carlisle's.

June, Three Lions

AS ACTS of kindness go down the Fulham Road this festive season, Mohammed Al-Fayed's Harrod's food hampers for out-of-work managers would take some beating by even old greybeard himself, even if the Fulham owner did get the hampers at cost price. His generosity usually comes with strings attached but there appeared to be none with the food parcel gratefully received by Glyn Chamberlain, sacked by non-League Newcastle Town going into Christmas but now manager of Congleton Town. It was by way of thanks for scouting work that Chamberlain had done for his former Chesterfield boss Arthur Cox, now director of football at Fulham. I wonder if the

former Everton manager Howard Kendall got a hamper from Peter Johnson.

CREATS NEVER prosper, we are told, but not according to Arsène Wenger, leastways not in the FA Cup. So who do you think is the Arsenal manager's tip to win the old competition. Manchester United? Aston Villa? Chelsea? Arsenal? No. His fancy is the team who last Monday, against the Gunners, suffered their seventh consecutive defeat and whose midfielder Nigel Redfern was branded a cheat by Wenger for allegedly trying to get Patrick Vieira sent off - Charlton Athletic. It does not say much for Wenger's estimation of the improving Blackburn Rovers side, who, after all, are at home to the Addicks in today's third round.

WITH ALL that Manchester United fans have on their plate, what with European Cup quarter-finals, Premiership title bids, it's amazing that they still have time to spare a thought for their old rivals Manchester City. So with the Maine Road club struggling to make an impact, even in the Second Division, the Reds ask: What does City stand for? Answer: Conference in Two Years.

LAST WEEK we asked you to name the nine first-teamers and one reserve at Chelsea who have won championship medals with other clubs. The terrific 10, together with their title-winning teams, are as follows: Ed de Goey (Peyenoord), Dan Petrescu (Steaua Bucharest), Marcel Desailly (Milan), Celestine Babayaro (Anderlecht), Gianluca Vialli (Juventus and Sampdoria), Graeme Le Saux (Blackburn Rovers), Albert Ferrer (Barcelona), Gianfranco Zola (Napoli) and - this is the tricky one - Roberto di Matteo (Aarau, Switzerland). The 10th title winner on Chelsea's books is the reserve goalkeeper Dimitri Khariine (CSKA Moscow). Sadly, as no one was able to come up with the correct winning combination, The Sweeper felt it only proper to plug down the unclaimed prize bottle of New Year's goodwill himself. Cheers!

## AS YOU WERE



A TENDER moment from the earlier days of Brian and Nigel Clough (as seen more recently, right), prior to Clough Sr's disastrous 44-day tenure as Leeds United manager in 1974. Seen here outside Elland Road with sons Simon and Nigel (centre), perhaps Cloughie's merriment could be explained by the following son-to-father exchange: "What's so funny, Dad?" "I'm imagining Billy Bremner's face when I tell him you're taking his place in midfield." "Ha ha ha!"

## THE PRICE IS RIGHT

A FABULOUS four-timer and a shrewd bet on Arsenal for the title at 5-1 (they won both their games over the holiday period and are already down to 4-1) last week. The Sweeper intends to start the New Year as he finished the old, terrorising the local bookie down both flanks and in the middle of the betting shop. There are some tub-thumping home bankers in the

third round of the FA Cup today, so let's nip in for a seven-match accumulator. And, in tomorrow's Sky game, Manchester United should avenge their recent home league defeat by Middlesbrough, who are going off the boil and should provide fewer problems than Chelsea did on Wednesday. Alex Ferguson's men have the European Cup as their main objective, but are sure to be up for it in what could be a grudge match.

## THE SWEEPER'S STOMPING CERTAINTIES

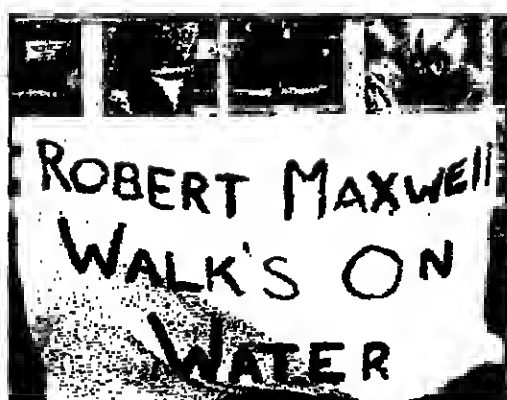
## LIBERO WAGERS

(£5 seven-fold accumulator with the Tote): Aston Villa to beat Hull City (1-10); Coventry to beat Middlesbrough (2-7); Newcastle to beat Crystal Palace (8-15); Nottingham Forest to beat Portsmouth (8-15); Southampton to beat Fulham (5-6); West Ham to beat Swansea (1-3); Wimbledon to beat Manchester City (1-2). (Return: £60.76).

## SUNDAY SKY MATCH

Manchester United v Middlesbrough. Manchester United (£3 to win at 4-6, Tote). ORIGINAL BANK: £100. CURRENT KITTY: £118.78! TODAY'S BETS: £8.72 (including 72p tax paid on).

## FROM THE FA CUP ARCHIVES



PLYMOUTH ARGYLE entertain Derby County in a third-round tie today in a repeat of a quarter-final in 1984. On that occasion the Third Division club from Devon won after a replay at the Baseball Ground. Derby, struggling in the old Second Division, were also in deep financial trouble. They were rescued by a cash injection from one Robert Maxwell. His generosity earned the above response from fans at the Baseball Ground. Little did they know...

## MY TEAM



CHRIS QUENTIN  
MIDDLESBROUGH

Former Coronation Street actor, currently starring in Cinderella at the Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford. "Middlesbrough are my home town team. I supported Leeds as a boy in the late 60s, but, since Steve Gibson and Bryan Robson arrived, Middlesbrough has come alive with football. At the FA Cup final in 1997 I was thinking: 'My God, I can't believe we're at Wembley!' The game itself was a let-down, but it was an occasion for the whole club to be recognised as well as putting the town on the map. I reckon we'll finish mid-table this season but we won't be fighting relegation, and hopefully next year we can qualify for Europe."

## IN T'NET

Found on the Web: Scherp Schutters Soccer Quiz YOU'VE MEMORISED all the answers from the sports edition of Trivial Pursuit your granny got you for Christmas and the pub's quiz machine has smoke coming out of the sides, but still your thirst for mindless football trivia is unsatisfied. In which case, point your browser toward the Scherp Schutters, whose mind-boggling variety of multiple-choice booty quizzes should keep you guessing to the end. Indeed, The Sweeper must confess to scoring a decidedly average 10 out of 15 on the World Soccer quiz, despite feeling confident that Middlesbrough were not an Australian club. Go try. <http://www.surf.to/soccertrivia>

## SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

FOR SWEETTOOTHED fans, the holidays have churned up a fabulous if somewhat bizarre selection of club-connected confectionery. For the Swansea fan who doesn't quite have it all, how about a slab of Swans French Nougat? And a gift box of Blades Chocolate Footballs would surely fill any Sheffield United fan with, well, chocolate. Best of all though, who needs the sweet taste of success when you can savour the even sweeter taste of Plymouth Argyle Fudge?

## THEY'RE NOT ALL DENNIS BERGKAMP

## Using foreign

## legionnaires No 20

BEN IROHA: Experience is one quality that Watford's recently acquired Nigerian World Cup defender is certainly not lacking in any shape or form. The 29-year-old veteran of France 98 and USA 94 became a free agent after leaving the Spanish side, Elche, last summer. His career began in his home country, where he played with distinction for Flash Flamingos and Nationale. Following a spell playing with ASEC Mimosra in the Ivory Coast, Iroha went on to spend three seasons at the Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem, before moving on again to San Jose Clash (pictured left) in the United States. One year on, he was at DC United, where he won an MSL championship medal. A lifelong fan of English football, Iroha considers his greatest assets to be pace and a long throw-in.



## Long-distance admiration for the Wasps

AUGUST 1967. I'm 15 years old, perverse and rebellious by nature, and I'm at a Jewish summer camp in the wilds of Chalkhamanshire.

It's Saturday afternoon and I'm bored. This is the first day of the football season and I want to see a match, any match. I don't care. The other boys are more religious than me. It's the Sabbath, they won't ride or carry money, and they certainly won't go to a football match, so I'm on my own. The nearest team are Alloa, which sounds seductively Hawaiian, until you add the Athletic. Desperate for some action - so desperate, in fact, that had our camp been 500 miles to the north I'd have gladly watched Tofir play Gots in the Faroe Islands' league - I decide to go.

Alloa, it turns out, are not well supported. I phone them for match details, the goalie an-

swers. I ask: "What time is kick-off?" He replies: "What time can you get here?" Old gag, I know, but it started in Alloa.

I go to the match. It's awful. I don't remember the result, but I do remember the police presence was restricted to just one officer on horseback whose sole purpose, it seems, was to patrol outside the ground throwing people in. If the officer looked angry, then the horse, frankly, looked stoned. It was. It turns out a bunch of students were feeding it LSD cubes on their way in to the ground. I think it was the happiest creature there.

From that day on Alloa were my team. Not my No 1 team, you understand, but my Scottish team. All English football fans have their Scottish team. Usually it's Rangers or Celtic, the soft options, they win everything, and don't we all like to

FAN'S EYE VIEW  
ALLOA

BY PETER MOSS

support winners? Not me, though. As I said, I'm perverse, and as my main team is Luton - I don't even live anywhere near the place, but I go nonetheless - you'll understand what I mean.

Of course, my support for Alloa doesn't lead me to do anything as rash as go and watch them, apart from that one game in '87. That much I leave to the truly masochistic. But I lend my support in other ways, mostly

from the vantage point of my fireside recliner, the teletext button, and the Sunday sports pages. Plus I get their new kit sent to me whenever new sponsorship and a kit change prevails - about three times these past 31 years.

My relationship with Alloa is something of an unconsummated affair, rather like Wendy Craig and that nice chap in But-terflies. I gaze on them, or at least their results, but I don't touch. I can't name any of their players, apart from a guy called Irvine who seems to score quite a lot. I've forgotten their manager's name, and I never did know the name of their home ground, though I think it's got the word Park in it. I think I know their nickname. It's The Wasps, isn't it? With yellow and black hooped shirts it seems logical enough, or maybe I've got that wrong too.

But despite my vagueness no Saturday afternoon ever passes by without seeing how Alloa got on. Even on my recent sabbatical in Peru, I faxed home each weekend to find out how my boys had fared.

Right now, as I sit at my word processor - and tell me if this is not the spookiest piece of serendipity - Alloa occupy the exact same position in the "same division, Scotland" speaking, as Luton, albeit my two teams reached that division by opposite routes. Luton taking an ever downward path, Alloa being elevated just last May. I don't know how significant this is, but if nothing else it does demonstrate my predilection for naïf teams, as will doubtless be evidenced by the imminent slide down the table for which both my teams are fabled. As the saying goes, when the going gets tough, the tough

lose their nerve, play like tossers, and get relegated.

That was someday back in '87, I don't remember who they played, but I know they were better. I forget the score, but I know we lost. I don't recall the attendance, but I do know that if Maxie, Ollie, Mike and the other guys from Tent Six had come with me, the spectators might have had a chance of out-muscling the players.

I do remember, though, that, within 10 minutes of getting back to camp not only was there a food parcel from home awaiting me - enough bagels, smoked salmon and gefilte fish to feed the whole of Alloa - but I'd pulled this girl from Willesden Green, a rabbi's daughter as I recall, and quite the most beautiful girl on the trip. Which only goes to show, if your team can't score, for heaven's sake make sure you do.

## Mallorca enjoy their moment in the sun

WHATEVER THE result of Real Mallorca's match against the bottom club Extremadura tomorrow, the island side will stay top of La Liga, for they have a four-point advantage over Celta Vigo and Valencia.

Mallorca's coach Hector Cuper is not complacent. He said: "The fact that Extremadura are at the bottom is irrelevant. It is not a match we are going to take lightly. They are defensive and can be difficult to break down."

Moreover, in seven away games, Mallorca have not once scored more than a single goal. Nevertheless, Mallorca have led the table for five weeks. The only other time they have topped the league was in the first week of the 1992-93 season, in which they were relegated. Some reckon the only reason Mallorca are doing well is that

## SPANISH FOOTBALL

BY PHIL MUNSHELL

La Liga is in a trough and that Real Madrid and Barcelona have been concentrating more on their European campaigns than domestic success. But the truth is that Real Mallorca have developed a superb defence, which includes the Argentine international goalkeeper Carlos Rosa. Mallorca have let in only six goals this season thanks to his efforts. Many consider him the best goalkeeper in the world.

Rosa, however, is not the only reason why Mallorca are top. Before this season only one Mallorca player had ever played for Spain, but in recent months Marcelino, Vicente Engonga and Dani have all been called up for the national squad.



# Rangers primed to take revenge

IF REVENGE is a dish best served cold the supporters of Rangers will turn up at Ibrox tomorrow hoping to see the football equivalent of Ready Steady Cook. Each one will harbour a desire to see their side wreak a terrible vengeance for the 5-1 reverse they suffered the last time these teams met. There's also the thorny problem of Celtic holding the league title that resided with Rangers for nine years.

Back in November few observers gave Celtic any chance with Rangers playing well at the time and Celtic struggling, but their 5-1 victory merely confirmed what we already know, that of all derby matches this one defies prediction.

Rangers hold a 10-point advantage over their great rivals so they know that a win would just about see off the challenge of the defending champions. The size of any winning margin, however, would appear to be less important for the players than the fans.

"People are asking me to help us win 6-0 or 6-1," claimed Giovanni van Bronckhorst, the Dutch midfielder, "but the important thing is that we do win even if it by one goal. A 13-point gap is very big and would give us so much confidence for the rest of the season."

Van Bronckhorst is one of an increasing number of foreign players whose arrival in Scotland is seen as a prime reason for the reduction in the passion with which this game is played. It is conceivable that Rangers could take the field with Barry Ferguson and Colin Hendry the only Scots in their starting line-up. Dick Advocaat, the Rangers coach, believes his players are well aware of the importance of the occasion.

"If my players don't have pride in their performance and a different attitude from the last game they don't know the importance of this one. Some of the players have had to learn that because there aren't so many Scottish players here but the Scots were furious after the last game, not only because we lost but the way in which we did."

"We have also seen how important the spectators can be. The Celtic fans were excep-

BY DAVID MCKINNEY

tional at Celtic Park, intimidating our players and encouraging their own from the start. Our fans can do that too."

Games are of course won by players with this particular fixture held up as the epitome of the Scottish game, yet too often it has failed to live up to its billing with the tensions of the occasion suffocating freedom of expression. Things have improved with the arrival of so many foreigners and the outstanding display at Celtic Park came from Lubomir Moravcik.

The Slovakian midfielder demonstrated skill and vision beyond his £300,000 transfer fee as he masterminded the destruction of Rangers who had been reduced to 10 men.

The man who brought Moravcik to Scotland, Josef Venglos, has seen his side unbeaten in the two matches with Rangers this season, the first ending 0-0, and although a relative newcomer to Scotland, he can already appreciate the particular nature of the fixture.

Graeme Souness, on his appointment as Rangers manager, caused uproar among Ibrox legends by suggesting he would accept four defeats by Celtic if Rangers were to win the title - yet perhaps this season the Rangers supporters can appreciate the sentiment of that statement.

Venglos tuned in to the nature of this game. "This is a specific and unique derby. It causes excitement for the fans, and people from outside the country are also interested in the result."

"Sunday will be a different game from the last one and will require a different approach from the players. Every game has a different history and this one is unpredictable with small things able to turn the game. But I believe in the quality of my players, they know the important games and they know how to prepare themselves."

It is the nature of these fixtures that virtually every Old Firm game has a bearing on the destination of the title and if Rangers do exact revenge for that November defeat Celtic's first title defence in a decade will effectively be over.



The Rangers coach, Dick Advocaat (left), and his Celtic counterpart, Josef Venglos, know just how much there is at stake in tomorrow's Old Firm derby at Ibrox



## McGowne boosts Kilmarnock

KEVIN MCGOWNE's dramatic late strike ensured Kilmarnock's New Year resolution of maintaining a title bid remained on course with victory against Motherwell yesterday.

The Fir Park outfit off cut-price admission at Fir Park for all but the Old Firm's visits, but the team give nothing away and looked to have secured a well-earned point. Yet Billy Davies' men missed several second-half chances, and this proved to be their cost when McGowne's stunning shot from distance snatched an unlikely Kilmarnock win with just four minutes remaining.

The visitors had moved ahead early in the first half through the familiar figure of Ally McCoist, but they lost

BY SIMON BUCKLAND

Motherwell 1  
Kilmarnock 2

momentum after Motherwell levelled through Ged Brannan's well-taken header.

Kilmarnock held out, though, when under pressure and their reward was a victory which kept them in second place in the Scottish Premier League, tucked in between the leaders, Rangers, and the champions, Celtic.

The visitors should have moved ahead after just eight minutes when Gary Holt's header fell invitingly for Paul Wright inside the six-yard box with time and space at his disposal. However, the striker was

unable to connect with the power he wanted and his loose connection enabled Stevie Woods to gather.

After 15 minutes, Kilmarnock were ahead, Ian Durrant releasing his former Rangers colleague McCoist, who defeated Woods with an angled drive just inside the far post.

McCoist threatened again in Kilmarnock's next attack with a near post effort eluded by Woods, but the Ayrshire outfit was unable to build on their lead. After 27 minutes, they paid the price as Motherwell levelled when Michel Doesburg's precise cross from the left picked out Brannan, whose firm downward header levelled the scores.

Midway through the second

half, Motherwell's Owen Coyle should have done better when presented with a genuine opening, but he dragged his attempt badly wide of goal when in position to do more.

With 11 minutes remaining, McCoist headed in Holt's cross, but the flag had already gone up for offside before he had even made contact. Kilmarnock seemed to have settled for a point, but from nowhere McGowne emerged to strike a blow from deep that left Motherwell down and out at the last.

Motherwell: Woods, McGowan, Brannan (Adams), Bili, Valachi, Coyte, Michels, Thomas, McCulloch, Doesburg, MacPhail, Nelson. Substitutes not used: May, Craig, Ramsey, Burnard (90).

Kilmarnock: Marshall, MacPherson, Montgomery, McGowne, Bili, Holt, Wright, Durrant, Mitchell, McCoist, Baker. Substitutes not used: Mahood, Roberts, Lauchlan, Burke, Strain (90).

Referee: K. Clark (Paisley).

# Robson ready as United aim to bounce back

FEW KNOW better than Bryan Robson what it means to lift the FA Cup. Three times with Manchester United, the former England captain climbed the famous 39 steps at Wembley to be handed the most recognisable of sporting trophies.

But now the Middlesbrough manager is plotting glory from the sidelines, and this year's third round draw could hardly have presented a bigger hurdle. Boro travel to Old Trafford tomorrow with the challenge of repeating their sensational 3-2 victory there a fortnight ago, but knowing that Alex Ferguson's side will be determined to restore their bruised pride.

"They don't get any tougher than at Old Trafford in the FA Cup, but everybody is looking forward to it," said Robson. "It will give the United lads that little bit of edge. They'll be disappointed that they got beaten by us at their own ground, so there'll be that little bit more of

an incentive to make sure that we don't beat them again. In saying that, United is a difficult place to go at any time. The FA Cup has a great tradition and the United players will want to win it as much as the league."

"We're just going there to enjoy the day. We know it's going to be a tough game."

Boro were going well in the Premiership before the double setback last weekend, and still have hopes of qualifying for Europe through the league. And Robson insists that, whatever happens tomorrow, the FA Cup will not get in the way of the week-to-week business.

"The year that we got relegated, we were in both cup finals and if you're in both competitions right up to the final and you get replays, then you get a backlog," he said.

"It's difficult for the players to keep pace with all the games. But when you've only got the league and the FA Cup, your players can get enough rest and you can go on two fronts."

## MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO TOMORROW'S AND MONDAY'S THIRD-ROUND MATCHES

**Sheff Wed v Norwich (Sun)**  
W: 1896, 1907, 35 Cup best: Semi-final: 1959, 89, 92  
Apps: 5 Wins: 4 3rd rd form (last 5 years) Apps: 5 Wins: 3

THE Sheffield Wednesday manager, Danny Wilson, must wait for an all clear from striker Andy Booth before deciding on his line-up to face Norwich at Hillsborough. Booth turned an ankle in the 2-0 defeat at Aston Villa on Monday but managed to complete the game.

The Wednesday manager will have to decide which system to use having switched to using three centre-backs for

the Villa match until he was forced to revert to a back four by the sending off of Dejan Stefanovic.

The Norwich manager, Bruce Rioch, is set to stick with an unchanged side but will be without the services of Craig Bellamy, who is still out with the knee injury suffered against Wolves. The striker Keith O'Neill will also miss out because of a hamstring injury.

**Man Utd v Middlesbrough (Sun)**  
W: 1909, 48, 63, 77, 88, 85, 90, 94, 96 Cup best: Final: 1997  
Apps: 5 Wins: 5 3rd rd form (last 5 years) Apps: 5 Wins: 3

DWIGHT YORKE will return for Manchester United against Middlesbrough after recovering from a groin strain which kept him out for all but an hour of the last five games.

With Yorke rejoining Andy Cole in the United attack, Paul Scholes is likely to drop into midfield to partner Roy Keane, Nicky Butt and Ryan Giggs. Ferguson could also call up teenager Jonathan

Greening for his FA Cup debut on the right.

Wes Brown and Philip Neville are in contention for the right-back spot as Ronny Johnsen partners Jaap Stam at the centre of the defence.

Middlesbrough will give late fitness tests to Paul Gascoigne (knee), Gary Pallister (cheek) and Robbie Mustoe (hamstring). Italian defender Gianluca Festa is suspended.

**Port Vale v Liverpool (Sun)**  
Semi-final: 1954 Cup best: W: 1965, 74, 86, 89, 92  
Apps: 4 Wins: 2 3rd rd form (last 5 years) Apps: 5 Wins: 3

LIVERPOOL WILL have their captain Paul Ince available after a one-match ban. But his England colleague Steve McManaman is out again, this time with an ankle injury sustained in his comeback match on Monday when he lasted just 25 minutes in the 4-2 win over Newcastle.

Robbie Fowler, who missed that game with a leg injury, is expected to be back in the

squad. He may find himself on the bench, though, since the Michael Owen and Karlheinz Riedle partnership grabbed two goals apiece against the Magpies.

Neil Brisco, 20, who is wearing a cast on a hand injury, looks set to start because of a flu bug which has swept through the Port Vale midfield. On-loan pair Tony Rougier and Des Lyle are ineligible.

**Preston v Arsenal (Mon)**  
W: 1889, 1938 Cup best: W: 1930, 36, 50, 71, 79, 93, 98  
Apps: 2 Wins: 1 3rd rd form (last 5 years) Apps: 5 Wins: 3

THE PRESTON manager, David Moyes, has a doubtful starter in defender Gary Parkinson who has a flu virus.

The Arsenal striker Dennis Bergkamp, who limped out of the Gunners' game with Charlton with an ankle injury, has an outside chance of playing. Nicolas Anelka is kept out by an ankle injury sustained

on Boxing Day against West Ham. Fabian Cahallero or Christopher Wreh are on standby to replace Bergkamp with Marc Overmars ready to switch to a central role. Arsenal have Tony Adams, David Seaman, Stephen Hughes, Fredrik Ljungberg and Nigel Winterburn injured and Gilles Grimandi is suspended.

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TODAY

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

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Doncaster v Grimsby	Doncaster v Grimsby
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# 26/FOOTBALL

## FA Cup: No longer is Graham Taylor the stuff of derisory headlines but the manager of a newly ascendant Watford

# No vegetables for the Vicarage man

By GLENN MOORE

IT WILL happen even before he reaches the dressing-room. As Graham Taylor gets off the Watford bus at White Hart Lane this lunchtime, a loud voice in the crowd will bellow: "You turnip, Taylor!"

Like the "Gotcha" headline and the page three pin-up, "Taylor the Turnip" is one of the indelible landmarks in the dunning down of English journalism. Quintessentially tabloid, it was brilliant but brutal, catching the mood of the masses at the expense of the individual. England's results precipitated the shredding of Graham Taylor's reputation, and that television documentary finished it off, but it is the turnip image by which he is remembered.

Even now, five years after resigning as England manager,

*'People have feelings. The turnip thing was diabolical. His track record with England was not bad'*

Taylor does not go to Wembley internationals. There is always the possibility of meeting, as he puts it, "the tattooed man with a pint in his hand."

There is one place, however, Taylor will always be welcome and it is at Vicarage Road that he has rebuilt his career after the trials of England and Wolves. Elton John, now Sir Elton, coaxed him back to the club as general manager in February 1996 and he took up the first-team reins again in the summer of 1997. His first season reaped the Second Division title, his second sees them fifth in the First Division with an FA Cup third-round tie at Tottenham today. If it were not for his frightening brush with death last month, when a throat abscess required an emergency operation, his rehabilitation would seem to be on course.

"My good fortune after Wolves was to take a break from team management," said Taylor when we met up on a murky day



Graham Taylor in contemplative mood before today's FA Cup tie at White Hart Lane where the former England manager moves back into the spotlight

Peter Jay

in Watford. "I came back as general manager, it took me off the training pitch and taught me that's where I should be. I didn't want to be chief executive or general manager. I wanted to be what I think I'm not bad at, and that's a football manager. I wanted the ups and downs, the shouting, the good and bad times with the press. I wanted that to be part of my life."

It is a rousing declaration and you begin to believe Taylor when he insists his enthusiasm survived both England and Wolves. In the next room, Sir Elton puts you right. "I think his appetite died for a while," the chairman said. "It was taken away from

him after the England job. That would happen to anyone. It was soul destroying, what happened."

"He was very loath to come back into football. I said: 'You can't let people dictate to you. Come back here, see what you think, in this environment you are loved and revered'."

"People are human, they have feelings, the turnip thing was diabolical. His track record as England manager was not that bad, it is only because we failed to qualify for the World Cup that it's seen as a disaster."

And because of the documentary, "Yes, he shouldn't have done it. Yes, he was the nail in the coffin for him. But we all make

mistakes. I have."

Remembering the programme's famous scene in Rotterdam, where Taylor finally disintegrates after Herr Assenmacher fails to send off Ronald Koeman for bringing down David Platt, Sir Elton adds: "We'd all have been like that. His whole career was ruined by that referee. It was a joke."

Today Taylor is far removed from the haunted England manager who confessed he woke up with his pyjamas soaked in sweat. Even his recent illness appears not to have scarred him, apart from a husky voice. He is under doctor's orders not to strain his throat, torture for

someone who likes talking as much as Taylor. And, after 26 years in management, from the old Fourth Division to the international stage, he has plenty to say.

"It is ironic that the Premiership is where we wish to be but it is causing problems for the rest of football," he said. "When I go into schools I ask how many kids support Watford. I get three or four hands go up. Then I ask: 'Who supports United?' Eight or nine go up. Arsenal prompts 15 to 16. Then I ask how many have been to Highbury or Old Trafford and I don't see a hand. If I ask how many have been to Vicarage Road all the

hands go up. There is a generation of kids growing up whose football revolves around the Premiership - they won't have that commitment to their local team and that is sad."

Then there is the changed atmosphere within the game. "It was always competitive but it was friendlier when we all drank and ate out of the same bowl. Now 20 clubs eat out of a trough and the rest get the little bits and pieces. Money is at the root of it. Last year we won the Second Division and lost £750,000. This year we've barely been out of the top six and we will be fortunate if we don't lose £1m."

There was more, equally heartfelt and sensible. Taylor bemoaned the money going to agents, the dependence on television income, the way young players are not working on the basic skills of their game the way they used to.

But, he adds, players still come into the game with enthusiasm and, if he can keep them from outside temptations, that can be harnessed to the same good effect as 20 years ago, when he led Watford from the Fourth Division to Europe and the FA Cup final.

"I still believe you can stay up (in the Premiership) on organisation, coaching ability and having players who are

prepared to work at the basics. In the dressing-room before a game the money aspect never enters it."

Taylor is a complex man. Hurt by the spotlight, but ever seeking it. Thin-skinned, if it is said, but not one to harbour a grudge. He never conquered that "show us your caps" mentality with England and shows signs of suffering it himself - he works into conversation the letter he received from Alan Shearer when he left the England job, the help he has been giving David Platt in his coaching education, and his discovery at Aston Villa of Platt and Dwight Yorke.

Without doubt a decent and honourable man, he is clearly held in the highest esteem by Sir Elton. Many years ago Taylor invited the rock star to dinner then presented him with a bottle of whisky and the words: "Isn't that

*'I wanted the ups and downs, the shouting, the good and bad times with the press. I wanted that back'*

what you normally have?" Alluding to that period, Sir Elton said: "Graham is probably one of the greatest friends I have in my life. He did some very plain speaking to me and I took it on board. Having someone you respect so much saying what he thought of you upset me because I knew he was right."

Sir Elton will not be at White Hart Lane today - he is in California working on a film soundtrack - but Taylor after a break imposed by his doctor, will be present. The match has a special resonance, as his last spell at the club ended with a win over Spurs in the League a month after going down to them in the 1997 FA Cup semi-final. That was the occasion Gary Plimley was summoned from his Newport wine bar to answer a goalkeeping crisis. Then handicapped Watford lost 4-1. Today Taylor's promising young side hope to compete on equal terms and further the rehabilitation of a football man.

### MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO TODAY'S FA CUP THIRD-ROUND MATCHES

#### Aston Villa v Hull City

W: 1887, 85, 97, 1905, 13, 20, 57 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Semi-final: 1930 Apps: 5 Wins: 5

ASTON VILLA manager John Gregory is looking to improve on the club's dismal record in the FA Cup but insists that any success will not distract from the main priority of Premiership title glory. Villa look to have a straightforward task on their hands when they entertain the Third Division's basement club Hull City in today's match.

"Last season the club's success in the FA Cup and UEFA Cup kept things going," Gregory said. "Hull might be struggling at present but we will treat them with the utmost respect. We don't want to be one of those sides making the headlines for the wrong reasons in the Sunday newspapers."

Villa will be without the injured Ian Taylor but fellow midfielder Alan Thompson will return after suspension, while



John Gregory: Priorities

striker Stan Collymore has recovered from an ankle injury. Hull hope that goalkeeper Steve Wilson will be fit after a bout of flu, while the former Rangers midfielder Brian McGinly has recovered from an Achilles problem.

#### Blackburn R v Charlton

W: 1884, 85, 86, 90, 91, 1928 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 5 Wins: 3

BLACKBURN MANAGER Brian Kidd is sweating on the fitness of five players for today's all-Premiership FA Cup third-round match at home to Charlton. Virus victim Nathan Blake is very doubtful while captain Tim Sherwood, fellow midfielder Billy McKinlay and fullbacks Callum Davidson and Jeff Kenna face late tests. Swiss defender Stéphane Henchoz, who missed his first game this season at Leicester on Monday, is hopeful of recovering from an Achilles strain to partner young

England star Marlon Brown at the heart of the defence. Kidd is already without Chris Sutton, Christian Dailly, Tim Flowers, Garry Flitcroft and Sebastien Perez, while Darren Peacock is suspended and new striker Ashley Ward is not eligible. Charlton will again be without leading scorer Clive Mendonca, who is out of action with a groin injury. Andy Hunt should return after a bout of flu, while Paul Mortimer and Matt Holmes have trained this week. Keith Jones remains doubtful.

#### Bolton v Wolves

W: 1923, 26, 29, 58 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 5 Wins: 3

BOLTON MANAGER Colin Todd faces a minor injury crisis for the visit of Wolves to the Reebok Stadium in the all-Division One FA Cup tie. Andy Todd is suffering from a hernia while Greg Strong has injured his leg, and both players look likely to be missing from the home side. Todd does have other options, however, and could recall captain Gudni Bergsson after a two-month absence or switch Mike Whitlow from left-back.

The flu epidemic sweeping the country has also struck at Wolves, laying low forward Robbie Keane, left-back Lee Naylor and midfielder Darren Ferguson. All three are struggling with the virus and are doubtful to face Bolton. Of the injury doubts, midfielder Simon Osborn has a hamstring problem, striker David Connolly has tendonitis, and utility player Steve Sedgley has an ankle injury. Definitely missing are record goalscorer Steve Bull and central defender Adrian Williams.

#### Bournemouth v WBA

6th rnd: 1957 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 2 Wins: 0

THE FA Cup pedigrees of these two teams could hardly be more contrasting. While Albion have played in 10 FA Cup finals (they last lifted the trophy in 1968), Bournemouth's best run came 42 years ago, when they lost to Manchester United in the sixth round.

Today Bournemouth will be without their captain, Ian Cox, who is serving a one-match ban. Roger Boli is likely to come into

a Cherries side who have won their last six games.

West Bromwich Albion's 5m-rated striker, Lee Hughes, will be fit to lead the line at Dean Court after returning to training following an evening out with friends that went awry when he slipped on ice and suffered a facial injury. Denis Smith, the Albion manager, insists his 26-goal striker is not facing any disciplinary action.

#### Bradford C v Grimsby

W: 1889, 1938 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 3 Wins: 1

PAUL JEWELL, the home manager, is confident his team can overcome Grimsby at Valley Parade. He looks set to keep faith with the starting line-up which defeated Tranmere on Monday and consolidated The Bantams in fourth place in the First Division. The goalkeeper Mark Prudhoe, and midfielders Paul Bolland and Craig Ramagge are all added to the squad but look likely to start on the

bench. "It will be a tough game," Jewell said of the tie between promotion rivals, "but if we play well we can win it."

Grimsby's manager Alan Buckley will give late fitness tests to Stacy Coldicott and Tony Gallimore - both are suffering from hamstring injuries - while strikers Lee Nogan and Daryl Clare miss out with flu and Lee Ashcroft is absent with a groin injury.

#### Bristol C v Everton

Final: 1909 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 3 Wins: 2

BRISTOL CITY chairman Scott Davidson is playing down his side's chances of creating an upset against Everton today. "We've done it in the past; we've beaten Liverpool and taken Everton close," he said, "but I don't think we expect to win."

Bristol City will be without Rob Edwards, Brian Tinnion, Colin Cramb, Shaun Taylor, Aaron Brown and loan signing Christian Edwards, and there

will be late fitness tests to full-back Jim Brennan and midfielder Tommy Doherty.

Scotland midfielder John Collins could play his last match for Everton for six weeks as he is due to have an operation next week. Marco Materazzi is out with a shoulder injury, while Ibrahim Bakayoko is doubtful. However, Dave Watson is fit after a short lay-off with a knee injury.

#### Bury v Stockport

W: 1900, 03 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 2 Wins: 0

THESE TWO clubs have not played each other in the Cup for 106 years. On that occasion they met in a qualifying round and Bury made full use of home advantage by winning 8-1.

Bury will no doubt face a much stiffer task today, particularly as half of their team have been suffering from flu. However, they have welcomed back Dean West, their wing-back, who completed two full games

in three days last weekend after being out of first-team action for 16 months with severe groin and pelvic injuries.

While Bury can claim the better Cup record historically, Stockport have established a giant-killing reputation in recent seasons. Today County will have striker Brett Angell back, but midfielder Paul Hughes is ruled out because he is on loan from Chelsea.

#### Cardiff v Yeovil

W: 1927 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 2 Wins: 2

THE FORMER Cardiff City striker Carl Dale will lead the Yeovil attack against his old club at Ninian Park today. The Conference club are without key defenders Murray Fishlock and Al-James Hannigan, who are both suspended. Hannigan lost his appeal against the booking he picked up against Telford. Veteran Tony Pounder or midfielder Jamie Pitman will deputise for Fishlock at left back. Dale plays against his old club in the absence of the cup-tied Darren Keeling while last season's top scorer, Owen Pickard, is still injured. Ex-Bristol Rovers midfielder Matt Hayfield is pushing for a recall after recovering from injury.

Cardiff's Jeff Eckhardt is expected to start a match for the first time in two months, while manager Frank Burrows could receive a welcome boost from the midfielder Danny Hill who is also likely to return to the side. Cardiff, leading the Third Division, will want to get back to winning ways after stumbling 1-0 at second-placed Brentford in the League.

#### Coventry v Macclesfield

W: 1987 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 5 Wins: 4

VETERAN GOALKEEPER Steve Ogriovic, who has played in every one of Coventry's FA Cup embarrasments since they won the trophy in 1987, is back between the posts against Second Division Macclesfield today. Ogriovic played in the infamous 2-1 defeat by non-League Sutton United 10 years ago and gets the nod over Swede Magnus Hedman. Up front, recent signing John Aloisi waits to see if he gets picked in front of Darren Huckerby, although new striker Stefano



Carl Dale: Cardiff return

Gioacchini, on loan from Serie A side Venezia until the end of the season, is also pressing for a place at Highfield Road. Macclesfield have been hit by a severe bout of flu with midfielder Martin McDonald and Rae Ingram certainly out while Neil Sorvel has a heavy throat infection and is doubtful. Defender Darren Tinson may be forced to play even though he is still not recovered from a knee ligament problem while winger Stuart Whitaker is hoping to shake off a back problem.

#### Crewe v Oxford Utd

Semi-final: 1888 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 4 Wins: 1

CREWE MANAGER Dario Gradi has said that he is not after a dream draw with a big club in the next round, but would rather be handed an easy ride and an extended run in the FA Cup. The First Division's bottom side are set to be without Steve Macauley, David Walton and striker Steve Anthrobus for the visit of their fellow strugglers to Gresty Road.

"We're in with a good chance because Oxford are of a similar standard to us," Gradi said. "If we get through I just want

a home tie against the easiest possible team."

Oxford are expected to keep faith with the side that held Portsmouth to a 2-2 draw on Monday, with winger Joey Beauchamp - sent off against Pompey - still available. The two teams have never met in the FA Cup or League Cup. Oxford have visited Gresty Road five times in the League but have won there only once. Neither club have progressed beyond the FA Cup quarter-finals this century.

#### Leicester v Birmingham

Final: 1949, 61, 63, 69 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 5 Wins: 3

LEICESTER ARE without Welsh international Robbie Savage for today's tie against Birmingham City. The flamboyant midfielder damaged knee ligaments against Blackburn Rovers on Monday and is facing a lengthy absence. Manager Martin O'Neill also has a worry over Andy Impey, who has a calf injury and is doubtful for the Filbert Street game.

#### Lincoln City v Sunderland

5th rnd: 1887, 90, 1902 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 1 Wins: 0

JOHN REAMES, Lincoln's chairman and manager, believes today's match with Sunderland offers his club some much-needed relief. The struggling Imps can forget about their League problems for the afternoon. Reames, who hopes captain Terry Fleming and goalkeeper John Vaughan recover from illness, said: "We're obviously the underdogs, and whereas recent League games

have been intense for us this allows us to relax a little bit."

Sunderland striker Kevin Phillips, having been out of action for three months after damaging his toe in the Worthington Cup match with Chester, may feature among the substitutes for the First Division leaders. Wingers Allan Johnston (knee) and Nicky Summerbee (ankle) are both still out of action.

#### Newcastle v Crystal Palace

W: 1910, 24, 32, 51, 52, 55 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 5 Wins: 4

CRYSTAL PALACE aim to emulate their achievement of last season, when a 2-1 win at Newcastle was one of their last in the Premiership. Injuries to strikers have stretched the First Division club's resources in recent weeks, but Matt Jansen and Lee Bradbury are available again today. Attilio Lombardo has an outside chance of playing, but defender Sagi Burton is suspended.

Newcastle hope to bounce back from Christmas defeats at home to Leeds and away to Liverpool. However, the Premiership side have doubts over Duncan Ferguson, who suffered a groin injury in the 4-2 reverse at Anfield, Rob Lee and Warren Barton. Didier Drogba, the 4th signing from Paris St-Germain, will not be involved because his registration was not processed in time.

#### Nottingham F v Portsmouth

W: 1898, 1959 Cup best 3rd rnd form (last 5 years) Apps: 5 Wins: 3

TROUBLED NOTTINGHAM Forest manager Dave Bassett is poised to name an unchanged team for this tie at the City Ground. Bassett, whose side has now gone a record 17 league games without a win, will hope for a change of fortune in the cup but will be without striker Pierre van Hooijdonk, who completes a three-match ban, and injured central defender Jesper Mattsson. But

captain Steve Chettle and Chris Bart-Williams, who are nursing back and calf injuries, are expected to declare themselves fit.

The Republic of Ireland is expected to recover a groin injury and record-breaking goalscorer Alan Knight is in line for a recall by Portsmouth. Andy Thomson, Thomas Thorngerson and David Hillier are all battling to recover from viruses.



# Aspin a rock in a sea of change

Port Vale's veteran defender hopes experience will pay against Michael Owen tomorrow. By Phil Shaw

TWO TEENAGED prodigies will be in direct opposition when Liverpool visit Port Vale tomorrow. One is a serial scorer just past his 19th birthday with a transfer value in excess of £25m. The other is under orders to stay in his own half and faces a possible free transfer next spring, by which time he will also be 34.

Michael Owen made his Premiership debut at half past eight, though he was an old codger compared with the tough-as-teak defender who aims to deny the England striker his first FA Cup goal in the third-round tie.

Neil Aspin, Vale's club captain, was a mop-topped 16-year-old when he fulfilled his dual ambition of playing for Leeds United in the former First Division. Some 650 games later, in a richly deserved testimonial season, it remains his only appearance at the highest level.

"I was due to play for the juniors at Doncaster but got pulled off the bus and told to go home and put my feet up," Aspin recalled. "When I came back to Elland Road I still didn't know what was going on, though the first team had injuries and suspensions. Allan Clarke, the manager, came and sat by me during the pre-match meal and said: 'You're playing against Ipswich today'. I nearly choked on my baked beans."

A week later Aspin watched in awe from the bench as the Liverpool of Daiglish, Hansen, Souless, Rush and Lawrenson closed in on another championship by outclassing the relegation-bound Yorkshire side. "They were as good as any team I've seen," he said.

High praise from one whose earliest heroes were Don Revie's Leeds. Aspin, who attended the same Gateshead school as Paul Gascoigne, was taken by his father to watch them at Newcastle. Norman Hunter made a "lasting impression" on him, if not in the way he did on many forwards, and he resolved to follow in the legendary leg-hitter's footsteps.

In 1985 his name was inscribed alongside the greats of the Revie era on Leeds' Player of the Year trophy. Two years later, he came within tantalising reach of more widely celebrated silverware: the FA Cup itself.

Leeds, then in the old Second Division, qualified for a semi-final against Coventry at Hillsborough. Aspin had arranged his wedding for the same Sunday, never imagining such a fixture clash. "I drove over to Harrogate, where Diane was modelling in a fashion fair, to tell her we'd have to cancel. She'd already heard me. Fortunately she forgave me."

Coventry came from behind to win 3-2 in extra time, just as they would at Wembley. A further two years on, with

Howard Wilkinson reshaping Leeds, Aspin reluctantly elected to move on rather than return to reserve football. He spoke to Charlton, a division higher, but did not fancy living in the South. Enter John Rudge, the already long-serving Vale manager.

"He kept pestering Leeds for me," Aspin said. "It got to the

point where it hurts where it hurts where it hurts. He helped establish the Burslem club in the second grade. Now he hopes Leeds will provide the opposition for his testimonial match, and that Gazza and Robbie Williams (the popping Vale-ite who cites Aspin as his favourite player) will play for him.

"He treats the club's moody as carefully as if it were his own. That's because he's got great feeling for Port Vale. He could have gone to Bradford, Preston and even Stoke at various times but he has stayed loyal."

Aspin's contract expires at the end of the season and he fears the club may wait until they know which division they will be in before deciding whether to offer an extension. Perhaps a heroic FA Cup performance, like the one which broke Everton's grip on the prize four seasons ago or the two draws with Arsenal last January, would convince any waverers in Vale's boardroom.

"We drew at Liverpool in the League Cup a few seasons back but Steve McManaman destroyed us in the replay. As soon as I heard the draw I thought about facing Michael Owen. It's only six months since I was leaping up off a mate's sofa after his goal against Argentina in the World Cup, so the prospect of facing him is both frightening and exciting."

Owen, whose father Terry was a Vale player at the time of his birth, will find this latter-day Hunter an unyielding adversary. The boy wonder need not worry, however, about tracking back should Vale gain a corner. Rudge has instructed his rock not to roll into enemy territory.

For Aspin to score the single goal he needs for double figures in his career may therefore require something unusual. "I'm still ahead of David Batty," he said with a self-mocking smile. Stiffing the natural finishers in Liverpool's ranks, or even Owen, would more than compensate.

"Loyalty doesn't count for much now. You're better off financially if you move around"

stage where Mr Wilkinson said: 'Go and see him just to get him off my back'. We met at a hotel near the M1 and by the evening I'd agreed to join Vale.

"But the day I set out to sign, I couldn't find the club. I was looking for signs to somewhere called Port Vale and there weren't any. It took me an hour and a half to get to Stoke-on-Trent and the same again to find the ground."

His uncompromising tack-



Neil Aspin, the tough-as-teak Port Vale club captain and (below) in his only appearance for Leeds United, against Ipswich, in the old First Division

Peter Jay



## MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO TODAY'S FA CUP THIRD-ROUND MATCHES

### Oldham v Chelsea

Semi-final: 1913, 90, 94  
Apps: 5 Wins: 3  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
W: 1970, 97  
Apps: 5 Wins: 4

CHelsea WELCOME back captain Dennis Wise from suspension for today's game at Oldham. Wise has missed the last three games following his sending-off against Everton but is available for selection in Gianluca Vialli's squad for the trip to Boundary Park. Chelsea will be without the suspended Dan Petrescu, Bernard Lambe, who is suffering with a groin injury, and long-term injury victim Gustavo Poyet. The Uruguayan international will see a specialist on Monday about his ankle injury.

John McGinlay, meanwhile, believes Oldham's notoriously inhospitable climate could aid the Latics in a potential giant-killing act. "Half of Chelsea's side won't know where Oldham is," McGinlay said. "It's not the most welcoming of places



Dennis Wise: Available

when the wind is howling and it's freezing cold."

Oldham manager Andy Ritchie will be without Icelandic international Toddy Orlysson with a knee injury. Paul Reid and Richard Graham look set to return for the Latics.

### Plymouth v Derby

Semi-final: 1984  
Apps: 4 Wins: 1  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
W: 1946  
Apps: 5 Wins: 2

THE Derby County manager Jim Smith's plans for today's FA Cup tie at Plymouth are in tatters with the Rams travelling to Home Park without eight members of their first-team squad. Defender Rory Delap has a torn knee ligament, while Stefan Schnoor, Tony Dorico, Igor Stimac and Francesco Balzano are also out. Paulo Wanchope and Darryl Powell are both serving a one-match ban and striker Malcolm Christie is cup-tied, but Dean Burton is back after a month's loan with

Barnsley and could find himself thrust straight back into the team. The 20-year-old defender Danny Porter has been added to the senior squad for the first time.

Argyle should welcome back midfielder Ronnie Mangs from suspension for the tie as long as he overcomes a back injury. Striker Sean McCarthy (knee) and central defender Mick Heathcote (back) also hope to be fit, but full-back Paul Gibbs is still out with a knee problem.

### QPR v Huddersfield

Final: 1982  
Apps: 5 Wins: 3  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
W: 1922  
Apps: 3 Wins: 2

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS have won only one of their four FA Cup encounters with today's opponents. The London side triumphed 2-1 in Yorkshire in a third-round replay two seasons ago after drawing 1-1 at the first attempt. Huddersfield won the three previous encounters, in 1931-32, 1948-49 and 1983-84.

Today Rangers have two major injury problems. Rob Steiner has an ankle injury, while Mike Sheron is struggling with a hamstring strain.

Gavin Peacock could step into the midfield, while Steve Slade and Chris Kwomoya are also on stand-by. Goalkeeper Luke Miklosko steps straight into the side after completing his £50,000 move from West Ham. Huddersfield have Chris Beech cup-tied. His fellow midfielder, Lee Richardson, has an ankle injury, while defender Jon Dyson has an Achilles problem. Flu has sidelined strikers Ian Lawson and Delroy Facey and midfielder Simon Baldry.

### Rotherham v Bristol R

5th rnd: 1953, 68  
Apps: 1 Wins: 0  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
6th rnd: 1951, 58  
Apps: 2 Wins: 0

BRISTOL ROVERS player-manager Ian Holloway will decide this morning whether to play with a broken nose. If he rules himself out, ex-Chelsea defender David Lee could move forward to play alongside Jamie Shore, who has completed his comeback from a serious knee injury. Fit-again Steve Foster will partner youngster Mike Trought in central defence if Lee switches to midfield. Rob Trees is re-

called, but captain Andy Tillson and Marcus Andreasson are still out with long-term injuries. Rotherham are without striker Rob Scott, who is facing a long lay-off after dislocating a shoulder, and Paul Raven, who is ineligible. Paul Dillon or Neil Richardson could return. The two teams have never met in the FA Cup, but Rovers have won only twice in 24 league visits to Rotherham.

### Rushden & Diamonds v Leeds

1st rnd replay: 1996-97  
Apps: 0 Wins: 0  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
W: 1972  
Apps: 5 Wins: 5

THE LEEDS manager, David O'Leary, faces a selection headache in defence, with captain Lucas Radebe, Martin Hiden, Gary Kelly, Robert Mole, and David Wetherall all doubtful for the trip to face Rushden & Diamonds at Nene Park today. "There wasn't much in it when Stevenage played Newcastle last season," O'Leary said, "and it'll be the same this time."

One man who will know the task Rushden face is their manager Brian Talbot. Talbot and O'Leary were room-mates the night before the pair won the 1979 FA Cup with Arsenal, 3-2 against Manchester United. Defender Ray Warburton and striker Darren Collins are unavailable through injury, while newcomers Miguel de Souza and American goalkeeper Ian Feuer are both eligible.

### Sheffield Utd v Notts Co

W: 1899, 1902, 15, 25  
Apps: 5 Wins: 2  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
W: 1994  
Apps: 4 Wins: 1

FORMER CHELSEA and Everton midfielder Graham Stuart is poised to return for Sheffield United for today's visit of Notts County. Paul Devlin, up against his former club, and Marcelo are almost certain to keep their places up front. Player-manager Steve Bruce could make changes in midfield with Michael Twiss, who came off the bench to score the winner

against Huddersfield on Monday, pushing for a start. Midfielder Andy Hughes is likely to play for Notts County despite a head wound suffered in the game against Reading. Striker Kim Grant, on-loan from Millwall, is not eligible and will be replaced by either Justin Jackson or Tony Garcia. Striker Sean Farrell has not recovered from a torn calf muscle.

### Southampton v Fulham

W: 1976  
Apps: 5 Wins: 2  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
Final: 1975  
Apps: 2 Wins: 0

KEVIN KEEGAN, a former Southampton player, returns to The Dell as Fulham manager. With Fulham leading the Second Division and Southampton struggling in the Premiership, a shock could be on the cards.

Southampton will be without Matt Le Tissier, who has a calf strain, and Stuart Ripley, who has a virus. Mark Hughes is likely to replace him in midfield following a two-match ban.

Carlton Palmer, Claus Lundekvam and Scott Hiley all face late fitness tests for minor injuries. David Howells, David Hirst and John Beresford all have long-term knee injuries while Francis Benali is not yet fit following a broken arm.

Fulham's Steve Finnan and John Salako have been suffering from flu and may not play, but Wayne Collins has recovered after an Achilles problem.

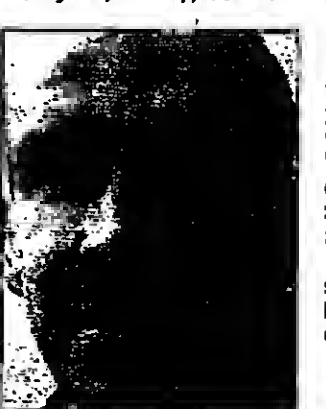
### Southport v Leyton Orient

Quarter-final: 1931  
Apps: 0 Wins: 0  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
Quarter-final: 1978  
Apps: 0 Wins: 0

PAUL FUTCHER, the 42-year-old Southport player-manager, aims to show if you are good enough you're young enough as he tries to help his non-League side into round four of the FA Cup. They face Division Three club Leyton Orient at Haig Avenue, having dumped Mansfield out of the competition in the last round and with hopes high of pulling off another giant-killing.

But, despite his club's fine showing in the Cup, the former Luton and Manchester City defender admitted: "Getting back into the Football League is our priority. Halifax have shown it can be done and look at Macclesfield, who are now in the Second Division. Who'd have thought that three or four years ago?"

Orient centre-back Stuart Hicks is available after serving



Paul Fletcher: Veteran

a suspension but is set to miss out with a back injury. Matty Lockwood has shaken off a knock and should feature while striker Carl Griffiths also returns. But fellow forward Steve Watts is cup-tied, having already played for Fisher Athletic.

### Swindon v Barnsley

Semi-final: 1910, 12  
Apps: 5 Wins: 2  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
W: 1912  
Apps: 5 Wins: 3

SWINDON TOWN'S hopes of embarking on a good FA Cup run could be hampered by an injury to their leading scorer, Ify Onwura. He is doubtful after sustaining an ankle injury in Monday's defeat at Bristol City. George Ndah stands by to replace him. Winger Ty Gooden could win a recall after recovering from a hamstring injury, but Scott Leitch serves the final game of a three-match ban.

Bruce Dyer, the Barnsley striker, is still struggling to

overcome an abdominal problem and is almost certain to miss out, while youngster Mike Turner is cup-tied. The defender Chris Morgan is also sidelined for the trip to the County Ground as he has flu. History would appear to offer Swindon little chance of success. The two sides have met three times in the Cup and Barnsley have won on each occasion: 4-0 in a qualifying round in 1902-03; 1-0 in a semi-final replay in 1911-12; and 2-0 in a first-round replay in 1922-23.

### Tottenham v Watford

W: 1901, 21, 61, 62, 67, 81, 82, 91  
Apps: 5 Wins: 4  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
Final: 1984  
Apps: 5 Wins: 2

STEFFEN NERSEN returns to the Tottenham line-up today for the first time since suffering a fractured jaw against Liverpool on 5 December. He replaces Chris Armstrong, who is suspended for the visit of First Division Watford. There is still no return for the injured defensive duo, John Scales and Ramon Vega, but the long-term injured - Mauricio Taricco, Moussa Saib and Paolo Tramezzani - have all resumed training.

Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, has a near full-strength squad to choose from for the trip to White Hart Lane. Defender Nigel Gibbs and midfielder Clint Easton have been added to the team that drew 1-1 at Carrow Road against Norwich on Tuesday. Centre-half Dean Yates has a knee injury and striker Michel Ngongé has a strained groin, fitness problems which could well keep the pair sidelined.

### Tranmere v Ipswich

5th rnd: 1968, 98  
Apps: 5 Wins: 2  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
W: 1978  
Apps: 5 Wins: 3

IPSWICH TOWN will be hoping to repeat their 2-0 First Division victory in September as they prepare for only their second FA Cup meeting with Tranmere. The East Anglian team also won on the latter occasion, winning 2-1 at Prenton Park in the fourth round six years ago.

Bobby Petia, who missed Ipswich's 1-0 defeat at Wolves because of gastric flu, is recalled. Kieron Dyer (thigh)

faces a late fitness test, while defender Adam Tanner is back in the squad after a knee injury. Samassi Abou has returned to West Ham after his month on loan, so David Johnson and Richard Naylor lead the attack. Clint Hill, Alan Mahon, Andy Thompson and David Kelly face late fitness tests for Tranmere. Gary Jones, Dave Challinor and Scott Taylor all expect to be in contention after bouts of flu.

### West Ham v Swansea

W: 1964, 75, 1980  
Apps: 5 Wins: 4  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
Semi-final: 1926, 64  
Apps: 1 Wins: 1

RIO FERDINAND has a back problem and is doubtful for West Ham's game with visitors Swansea City today. Manager Harry Redknapp's other injury concerns are Chilean defender Javier Margas, who is returning home for rehabilitation work, Paul Kitson (toe) and Marc Kellner (hamstring), but John Moncur and Eyal Berkovic have been passed fit. Neil Ruddock returns to bolster

the defence having completed a three-match suspension. Swansea manager John Hollins should have a near full-strength side. Talented midfielder Richie Appleby, who missed the recent win over Barnet because of an ankle injury, has declared himself fit, while Julian Alsop, Michael Howard and Stuart Roberts also look set to make an appearance at Upton Park.

### Wimbledon v Man City

W: 1988  
Apps: 5 Wins: 5  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
W: 1904, 34, 56, 69  
Apps: 5 Wins: 5

GARETH AINSWORTH'S injury lay-off looks set to stretch well into the New Year. The Wimbledon winger had hoped to be back in time for the home FA Cup tie with Manchester City today but that has proved a forlorn hope as his groin injury is not healing as expected. Carl Cort is set to lose out to Carl Leaburn for a striker's place despite grabbing an equaliser after replacing Leaburn at Leeds on Tuesday.

City, in the top flight not so long ago but now languishing in Division Two, will relish the chance to relive old times against a Premiership team. Andy Morrison has recovered from his bout of flu and could return at Selhurst Park. Michael Brown is set to keep his place in midfield, and top-scorer Shaun Goater, who has hit 11 goals this term, should start in attack.

### Wrexham v Scunthorpe

6th rnd: 1974, 78  
Apps: 4 Wins: 2  
Cup best  
3rd rd form (last 5 years)  
5th rnd: 1958, 70  
Apps: 2 Wins: 0

WREXHAM HAVE built a reputation for cup success in recent years, but on League form this season Scunthorpe must have a decent chance of upsetting the odds. While Wrexham languish near the foot of the Second Division, Scunthorpe occupy a play-off place in the Third.

Brian Flynn, the Wrexham manager, is likely to see the game as a welcome relief from his League problems, while his

Scunthorpe counterpart, Brian Laws, is relishing the chance to test his side against opposition from a higher division.



## SPORT

THE VERY BEST OF IRISH P19 • CUBA'S BASEBALL LOVE AFFAIR P18

FA Cup: Leeds should survive tough Nene Park test, but Everton look vulnerable at Bristol City



All things bright and beautiful: The sun rises on a new year over Rushden's luxurious Nene Park stadium where Brian Talbot's team hope to march on with the scalp of Leeds United Peter Jay

## Diamond day for dreamers



WHEN EVEN a hard-nosed old cynic like George Graham bemoans the devaluation of the FA Cup, complaining that certain clubs treat it less seriously than Europe, you know it is time the world's first and finest knock-out competition reassessed its capacity to conjure romance in the least propitious circumstances.

This weekend marks the 10th anniversary of the last time a non-League club eliminated opponents from the top flight, when Coventry City were goosed at Gander Green Lane by a bricklayer's goal for Sutton United. Responsibility for building on the list of six such shocks rests today with a club who are laying the foundations for something the part-timers of the past would scarcely have believed possible.

Rushden & Diamonds, where £20m has been invested

BY PHIL SHAW

in the six and a half years since the Doc Martens footwear empire merged two non-League nonentities, are no ordinary Conference outfit. The XI confronting Leeds United, which will be coached by David O'Leary's former Arsenal room-mate Brian Talbot, will be comprised entirely of full-time players. And whereas Sutton stood just above the relegation zone, Rushden would be six points clear at the top if they won their games in hand.

Leeds' Premiership position, fifth, is exactly that held by Coventry in 1989; a coincidence to inspire Northamptonshire's dreamers. The depletion of O'Leary's defence by injury and suspension might to encourage them further. However, the excellence of the set-up at Nene Park may work against Rushden. The pristine pitch and luxurious facilities are a far

cry from the days when would-be giants turned off the heating in the visitors' dressing-room and gave them lukewarm tea.

If the non-League game is to be represented in tomorrow's draw, it is more likely to be by the rougher diamonds. Southampton, who will have the oldest combatant of the round in 42-year-old player-manager Paul Fletcher, could prove a last resort for Leyton Orient, who have succumbed to Conference opponents in the last two seasons.

Yeovil go to Cardiff, the Third Division front-runners, with a former Nisan Park hero and South Wales electrician, Carl Dale, sparking their attack. The Somerset club have a tradition to maintain: 50 years ago this month, under the player-manager of Alec Stock, they put out mighty Sunderland, stirring the *Sunday People* scribe to gush: "Bang out

the flags! Ring the joybells! Let's go gay!"

Surprisingly, the biggest disparity is not the 90-team gap between Rushden and Leeds but the 91 that separate Aston Villa, the Premiership leaders, from Hull, bottom of the Third. The visitors would doubtless settle for a handsome contribution to their coffers and for going back to the struggle for League survival without confidence being further damaged by a heavy defeat, although Villa's record Cup win, 13-0 against Wednesday Old Athletic in 1886, looks safe.

Only two Premiership clubs are certain to be missing from the fourth round. Middlesbrough return to Old Trafford, where they beat Manchester United 3-2 last month, hoping for lightning to strike twice but undermined by successive reverses. Blackburn pit their revival under Brian Kidd against Charlton, who can only

hope that League form really does have no bearing on Cup fortune.

Arsenal face a potentially fraught start to their defence of the trophy at Preston on Monday, by which time at least one more of Arsenal Wenger's Premiership counterparts is likely to be contemplating the dubious consolation of being able to "concentrate on the League". Walter Smith and injury-torn Everton, away to a reviving Bristol City, look particularly vulnerable.

Nor will Derby, even more disrupted by injuries and suspensions, relish their long haul to Plymouth, while Southampton receive Fulham knowing the Second Division leaders have already beaten them at The Dell this season in the Worthington Cup. Nottingham Forest, mired in the longest run in their history without a League win, also face a hiding-to-nothing tie, at home to Portsmouth.

Four of the players who brought the European Cup to Forest will be managerial foes at Leicester, where Martin O'Neill and John Robertson are for once unable to appropriate the psychological tag of underdogs against a Birmingham side under Trevor Francis and Ian Bowyer. Former Manchester United team-mates will be on opposite benches at Coventry, where Gordon Strachan comes up against Maccafield's Sammy McIlroy and Peter Davenport.

Nowhere does a winter's day chill the bones like Boundary Park, a wind-trap of a ground which could help Oldham's journeymen test the theory that Chelsea's glove-wearing foreigners may not like it up 'em, as Corporal Jones used to say. John Hollins' Swansea, unbeaten in the Third Division since October, would have fancied their chances against West Ham at

the Vetch Field but may have to make do with dignified defeat and a lucrative pay-day at Upton Park.

Vale Park can be almost as unforgiving as Oldham when a gale drives in the rain, and John Rudge's reign at Port Vale has seen Tottenham, Everton, Derby and Southampton all blown out of the competition there. The Potteries stragglers - four points from the last 33 in the First Division and blighted by 'flu - will welcome any assistance from the elements against Liverpool, especially as Neil Brisco, 20, may have to make his debut with a plaster cast on a fractured hand.

But the Vale manager spoke for all those striving to emulate Sutton's feat, saying: "The Cup has a habit of throwing up unlikely heroes, so we're just hoping someone will rise to the occasion and make a name for himself."

## Bates' loans claims rejected

BY MATT BARLOW

THE FOOTBALL Association has denied any wrongdoing in the wake of a loans controversy sparked by Ken Bates.

The Chelsea chairman, who wants to become the FA's new chairman, said he was lifting the lid on corruption within the game's governing body. He claimed senior staff had been given interest-free loans for anything from home improvements to holidays.

But the FA's acting chief executive, David Davies, insisted any loans made had been issued through the proper channels - and he added the arrangement was not unusual within large companies.

"The FA have never issued interest-free loans to staff," insisted Davies. "Any loans there have been have always been authorised. No new loans have been issued in the last year. Similar loans to staff are made by many organisations."

Bates said leading members of the FA staff had made arrangements for personal loans without the approval of the council. "I have been told that the staff committee have been awarding these loans to themselves without security and without approval from the appropriate finance committee," he claimed. "There are loans for 10 to 20 years for home improvements."

The Bates allegations come just weeks after the chief executive Graham Kelly resigned over his role in a £3.2m loan to the Welsh FA. A vote of no confidence was also passed by the FA's council in its chairman, Keith Wiseman. He has so far refused to step down but will face the council on Monday, when it is thought likely that his reign will also come to an end.

A clear-the-air meeting between Premiership referees and leading managers is to be brokered by the FA in the next couple of weeks after a number of recent disputes between them.

Gareth Barry has agreed a new five-year contract at Aston Villa and will put pen to paper on the deal - reported to be worth up to £10,000 a week - on his 18th birthday in February.

Barry, who was a target for Arsenal and Chelsea before joining Villa, said: "The figures in the contract are not as high as people have been speculating about, but I am really pleased that everything regarding the deal has been finalised."

## Graham wants radical change

BY NEIL SILVER

GEORGE GRAHAM has revealed his blueprint for the future of English football - and called for the introduction of a winter break. The Tottenham manager admitted he had thought hard about the state of the game, and concluded it was time for change.

Graham's ideas include: a mid-season break, having off the month of January; starting the season two weeks earlier and finishing two weeks later; no reduction in the size of the Premiership; no transfers during the season except during the month's break and a ruling that managers could not be sacked during the season.

Graham said: "I think it would be great to have a break mid-season. I would like to see us start the season two weeks earlier and finish two weeks later and I would like to have off the month of January. The first half of the season would finish on 31 December and the League Cup would be over by then. The second half of the season would start on 1 February and would comprise the FA Cup and the second half of the League. By starting two weeks earlier and finishing two weeks later, that is where you pick up your month for a break."

Graham said there would be no need to reduce the size of the Premiership if his proposed schedule was introduced. He said: "I would have a shorter break in the summer because in the modern game that break is too long. We could span the games out longer. You could play the majority of games on Saturdays."

"With the pace and commitment of today's game I think it would be good for everybody to have that month off. The players can have two-and-a-half weeks off and then start training 10 days before the season re-starts. There would be no friendly matches, which means

no lucrative games in say the Middle or Far East - the FA have the power to veto those.

"I don't think we need two months off in the summer. Instead we need to give the players a month off to recharge their batteries. The game already spans 10 months so let's use that time and spread it out so there is not such a great pressure on the players. We are one of the few countries not to have a break at this time of year. I hope the football authorities take the opportunity to improve the quality of the game."

Meanwhile, Spurs have loaned Neale Fenn and Peter Gain to Lincoln City for a month.

## Golding's hopes are sunk

BY STUART ALEXANDER

RACE LEADER Mike Golding was last night assessing his chances of Team Group 4 continuing in the Around Alone after he hit a submerged object four miles off the coast of Cape Reinga on the northern tip of New Zealand's North Island. And as Italy's Giovanni Soldini crossed the finish line to win the 6,800-mile leg from Cape Town, third-placed Marc Thieclien also reported hitting a semi-submerged container, which damaged his twin rudders and allowed Isabelle Autissier to overtake him.

The impact was enough to push the keel up through the hull of Golding's Open 60-footer and he immediately put out a MayDay as he also rushed to

close all the water-tight bulkheads on the yacht.

A fishing boat in the area came to his assistance and later Golding was given a tow into the nearby Tom Bowling Bay. There he was waiting for his shore crew to fly in from Auckland to assess the damage. If the boat could be repaired enough to make the final 140 miles down the coast to the finish then Golding could do full repairs and continue in the race. But if the problem is too severe then his race would be over.

A distraught Golding had time to report his plight to race

director Mark Schrader and he told his girlfriend Andrea Bacon, "My dreams are shattered." He had won the first leg from Charleston by just two and a half hours over Autissier, but Soldini had been five days behind and would have pulled back only 24 hours of that.

The race rules automatically disqualify anyone who accepts a tow of 10 miles or more, or who retires from a leg. But spokesman Dan Miller said that, because the tow had been only a short one, "at the moment he is still in the race."

Thieclien's crash damaged both rudders. He stopped and spent two hours making repairs. He then continued with one rudder still partially



Golding: Dreams dashed

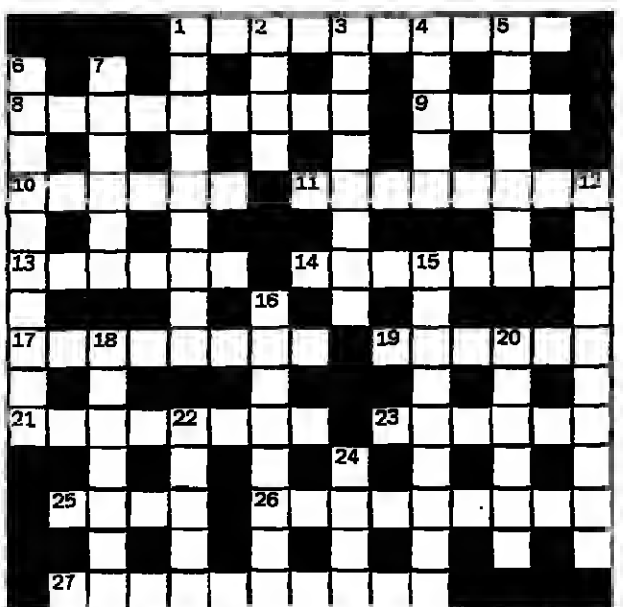
jailed but Autissier had overhauled him. She was also set to take the overall lead.

Team Group 4's Charles Rice said: "It is tragic that this should have happened so near to the finish of leg two, after coming through such the Southern Ocean. But it is a relief to know that Mike is unharmed."

## THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3808 Saturday 2 January

by Spurius



## ACROSS

- As those occupying space are told: "Don't linger so long" (10)
- Took steps to provide entertainment in sound and vision (12-4)
- Old priest wearing church vestment (4)
- American terminology originally in dictionary is removed (6)
- What's found in streets of Eldorado, or Dutch thoroughfare? (4,4)
- History or divinity graduate following appropriate vocation (6)
- Accommodation of more than one layer? (8)
- A question class ultimately omitted, problematic bit of algebra? (9)
- Smooth characters in Yorkshire Water divided about prohibition (8)
- Hearless conscience easy to get into a comfortable state (8)
- Repetitious utterance from worker in Moral Re-armament (6)
- Mineral used in metal (4)
- Old shooter and novice having intelligence to get amongst herd (9)
- Shell offshore exploration worker (5-5)

## DOWN

- Type of vessel which did away with the pilot? (9)
- Type in church? (4)
- Extremely fluffy medic and old General having a gas (6)
- University College will be among to top, it's clear (6)
- "Last of the Samurai" kept us up - no time to waste (7)
- Jogging along the prom, sea air's what you'll get (10)
- Sergeant-major springs about in convulsions (6)
- Those representing us in Europe take refuge in EuroDisney etc (5,5)
- Heaven, seen as endlessly ethereal, frequently? (9)
- Crammed or coffered, maybe? (6-3)
- Snobish way to mature after getting to university (7)
- Novelist about to give Ruth a ring? (6)
- Happen to pop into our cricket club (5)
- Capital that is invested in bank ultimately linked to Vatican City (4)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, 2 O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners will be announced next week.

Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

TAXI METICULOUSLY  
LEO O A A P  
OVERTURN MARKER  
A C L G P I  
INDEED UNIFORMS  
I E E N A  
SUPERFLUOUSLY  
E L A V O  
ADVANCES ENGINE  
N A H I J N  
BANDER UNIVERSAL  
I E T N U G I  
IRONMONGER LAST  
E T N E E E

AFFAIR COMPRISE  
O B A R T I E  
ALMONOEVES BRIG  
I U T I S U R  
CONTRACT PLUOFF  
V L A E R  
ETUI LONGSHIP  
E M E L I H E  
MAYERSKI RUDE  
C P S B I  
LUTHER ADORNING  
E S T S K T  
OFFA SHIPPLANT  
U D S O N G C  
PILAYDOWN SIMDEN



# WEEKEND REVIEW

COMMENT • ARTS & BOOKS • COUNTRY & GARDEN • MOTORING • PROPERTY • MONEY • TRAVEL



**ROY JENKINS**  
ON THE BIRTH  
OF THE EURO  
ESSAY, PAGE 5



**MAGNUS MILLS:**  
MEET OUR NEW  
RADIO CRITIC  
ARTS, PAGE 8



**A FACIAL FOR  
LESS THAN  
HALF PRICE**  
SHOPPING, PAGE 12



**WHERE TO  
NOW? HOUSE  
PRICES IN 1999**  
PROPERTY, PAGE 13

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T BARLOW

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Peter Macdonald

## Saturday afternoon fever

In New Labour's vision of 'Cool Britannia' and 'Rebranded Britain', morris dancers are as unfashionable as wing collars. So what makes them do it? Is it a yearning for a lost rural Arcadia or just an excuse to visit every pub in the country?

In Keston Village Hall, just south of Bromley, Kent, the Ravensbourne Morris Men are about to set off for their annual Boxing Day dance. On one of the two tables in the room are soft drinks, all of which are entirely untouched. On the other is hot punch, around which several men are cheerfully jostling with many a cry of "Seems a pity to waste this last drop!". Others are strapping on their jangling garters, and mustering their accessories, including a cake impaled on a stick which, like most things pertaining to morris dancing, is "probably something to do with ancient fertility rites". The wooden horse's head - also probably something to do with ancient fertility rites - is not being used on this occasion.

Amid the kerfuffle, one of the men's wives warns me against the punch. "It's so strong," she says, "that last year it caught fire... They make their jelly with it as well," she adds. "Jelly?" "Yes," she says, and explains that the Ravensbourne Morris Men always make a "special" jelly for their yearly dinner, or Annual Ale as it is more correctly known. This year, the jelly is likely to be even more incendiary than usual, because it is a hundred years since the most momentous event in morris-dancing history.

Now, before going any further, a note of caution is required. It must be acknowledged that the histories of morris sides, as troupes of dancers are known, are bristling with anniversaries and traditions. The description of any innovation tends to be followed by the contented words, "this has now become an annual fixture". The Ravensbourne

Morris Men, for example, speak of their annual Boxing Day meet as though it has been happening for about 600 years at least. In fact, their side was founded as recently as 1946, and the Boxing Day event began in 1972, and in strangely post-modern circumstances at that: the American actor Richard Chamberlain was spending Christmas in Kent and wanted to see something "traditionally English", so the Ravensbourne Men put on a dance just for him.

That said, though, what happened in 1899 surely merits the commemoration it will be receiving throughout the next 13 months. It was in that year, on Boxing Day (one of the few winter days on which morris dancing occurs), that the revival of folk dancing began with the chance meeting in Oxfordshire of a musician/schoolteacher called Cecil Sharp, and William Kimber of the Headington Quarry Morris Side. The Side performed their dances and Sharp, entranced, set about his life's work of collecting and propagating folk songs and dances.

Such dances - whose source most morris dancers put somewhere between "pagan" and "lost in the mists of time" - had been popular at all levels of society under Elizabeth I, and seemingly for a while thereafter. But they had dwindled throughout the 18th century, when there was a great movement of population from the land to the towns. As rural life seemed threatened, so it became increasingly romanticised by people whose views were perhaps coloured by the fact that they had never done a day's stone-picking on an empty stomach in a sodden field for next to no money.

Sharp was searching for a lost British Arcadia

that also haunted the likes of Thomas Hardy, Gertrude Jekyll, Ralph Vaughan Williams, William Morris and John Ruskin (famous for writing *The Stones of Venice*; less well known for relaunching the maypole). This folk revival had overtones that were both socialistic and nationalistic. Against a background of international tensions, rural traditions were thought of as a common denominator around which the nation could unite.

At folk dancing's HQ, Cecil Sharp House in Camden, there is poignant, flickering footage of Sharp's associate, the composer George Butterworth, goofily dancing the morris shortly before being killed at the Somme. But the Great War only emphasised the malignity of industrial society. It actually encouraged rural romanticism, as did the Second World War, which was followed by the second big folk revival, and a boom time for morris dancing.

This yearning for a rural idyll remains a large part of our culture, and is most particularly at the heart of morris dancing, which is currently neither booming nor on the critical list. When, for instance, I ask David Jex, manager of east Surrey Dial-A-Ride and a former Bagman (or secretary) of the Ravensbourne side, to explain the appeal of the morris, he talks dreamily of "standing looking across the Weald of Kent of a summer's evening".

There is more to it than that, though. When you see pictures of morris dancers in books, the

question presses upon you with great urgency: why do they do it? But when you encounter them in the flesh, the answers are obvious.

For a start, they do cut a dash. The Ravensbourne Men's own take on the quite nebulous morris dress codes is compelling. Setting off in their John Bull hats and black cloaks towards their dancing venue - The Greyhound pub in Keston - they have a sinister, highwayman-ish glamour. And the delicacy of their neckerchiefs, leg-tassies and bells only points up the grizzled manliness of their faces. Their appearance puts me in mind of a word of warning I had received at Cecil Sharp House: "Call a morris man quaint and he'll bounce you on your head."

Thanks to weekly practices, they're all pretty lean, too. One of the dancers, Ian Peretti, who works for Sony and is The Fool of the side (a title which is no reflection on his intelligence, but probably something to do with ancient fertility rites) tells me that he recently went into hospital for an operation on his knee, and the surgeon said: "Good God! What exercise do you do to get muscles like that?"

The other aspect is the social one. The Ravensbourne Men are obviously great mates, and when a former member of the side, now exiled in Cardiff, turns up at the last minute to join in the dancing, the cheers are deafening. It also seems that all their practices end in visits to the pub, and most of their dances take place at pubs.

"But that's purely coincidental," says David Jex, not very convincingly. "The fact is that a pub usually has an outside space for dancing, and toilet facilities, too." It is true that the Ravensbourne Men

spurn the morris tradition of wearing tankards on their belts ("It gives the wrong impression," Ian Peretti tells me). But, on the other hand, they do carry about with them a great clanking pail labelled "Beer Bucket".

We are now approaching The Greyhound, and with a sudden cry of "Hup!" from the master of ceremonies, Jex, the Ravensbourne Men start dancing down the road in a sinuous skipping crocodile. The effect is totally heart-lifting, the dancers resembling slimmer versions of that ecstatic figure in the famous postcard captioned "Skegness is so bracing".

In the pub car park, before a rain-soaked crowd of 300, the performance proper gets underway, starting with "Bean Setting", the dance that Kimber showed Sharp a hundred years ago, which involves the complicated manipulation of ash sticks.

After a series of dances with superb names like "The Buttoot", "Step and Fetch Her" and "The Vandals of Hammerwich", two of the finest dancers in the side perform what looks like free-form skipping, but with complex and exhilarating embellishments. These men are Wayne Taylor, a publican from far-flung Mill Hill, who apparently watched morris dancers when he was four and vowed, there and then, to become one himself, and Jim Bartlett, a former schoolteacher who once danced all the way from Orpington to Worcester. Later, I ask him why he did this, and he sucks on his pipe for a long time. "That's a good question," he says eventually. (A modest answer because the

Continued on page 2

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								<b>SIX PAGES OF TRAVEL</b>



TOMORROW IN  
THE INDEPENDENT  
ON SUNDAY

## REVIEW

Anita Brookner on  
a new exhibition of  
Ingres' paintingsWhat happens when you  
snort heroin? Aerobics  
teacher Emily Jenkins  
describes her experience

## CULTURE

A new short story  
by Will Self

## REAL LIFE

Marian Salzman gazes  
into her crystal ball:  
we glimpse the future

## PLUS

Michael Bateman talks  
to Rick Stein

Panto Season No 6: The finale of 'Dick Whittington', in dress rehearsal at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter

John Voos

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk  
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

## Euro visions

Sir: Your survey of the likely key players in the British debate over the European single currency ("Blair treads softly on new currency", 30 December) overlooks the critical impact of the analysis developed by the left of the Labour Party, especially the Socialist Campaign Group of MPs and MEPs.

Although included in the list of the "Antis" is Labour MP Austin Mitchell, his criticisms of the single currency come from the radical centre. The Campaign Group's critique comes from both the traditional left, such as Tony Benn, and the modernist left, such as Nottingham South MP Alan Simpson, the most articulate exponent of the criticism of modern capitalism and the corrosive effects of "globalisation" on local and regional economies, co-operative trade, and global ecology.

There will be a massive "democratic deficit" if we sign up to the euro, as the rules of the European Central Bank prohibit interference with the ECB's operations or decisions by EU governments or parliaments. The euro bankers are unelected and not removable, even if they make a disastrous hash of it. Elected governments and parliaments will be able to make a lot of noise, but not legally to take any corrective action.

I support Mr Prescott's renewed call in his *Independent* interview (30 December) for traditional Labour values in a modern setting. Labour must continue to be for the many and not the few. Very shortly we will see that the euro embodies the opposite principle.

Dr DAVID LOWRY  
Stoneleigh, Surrey

Sir: Roo West (letter, 1 January) seems to accept that Britain must join a larger currency bloc and argues that this should be the US dollar. Not everyone would accept that sterling must be subsumed in another currency but if the choice is between being a senior partner in Europe or an

appendage to the USA with roughly the same influence as Puerto Rico, then I would plump for Europe.

As for our similarities with the US, I would be happier if we resembled Europe rather than the US on prison populations, teenage pregnancy rates and levels of drug abuse.

GRAHAM PERKINS  
Bromyard, Herefordshire

Sir: The myope is not Lord Howe but Ron West when he advocates the dollar over the euro. Firstly, international use of the dollar has not been spreading but shrinking for some years now; the advent of the euro ensures a dramatic decrease in the dollar's world role in the near future. Secondly, some 60 per cent of Britain's trade is with Euroland; this is three times more than with the United States. Thirdly, the euro is on offer to us; the dollar is not.

JIM MANGLES  
Worthing, Norfolk

## Affairs of honour

Sir: A friend of mine, Mrs Phyl McMillan, was included in the New Year Honours as an MBE, having dedicated almost 50 years of her life to the unpaid teaching of disabled swimmers.

When nominating her, I resisted the temptation to suggest a peerage, or a knighthood, rather than a less prestigious honour, because I thought it would be considered inappropriate. I now wonder if I was right. At a time of debate as to how best to modernise the House of Lords, am I alone in questioning the criteria by which honours are awarded?

By way of example only, have not the acting of Sir Nigel Hawthorne and the boxing of Prince Naseem Hamed MBE already been properly recognised by the fame and fortune each has so deservedly achieved?

As the millennium approaches, should a number of honours still be reserved for those who are in paid employment in the civil and diplomatic services and the armed forces?

At least as regards the CBE, OBE and MBE, would it not be preferable if they were awarded for unpaid service to the community and all recipients (rather than simply a majority as at present) had to be nominated by members of the public?

DAVID C BATE QC  
London ECA

Sir: Your call to "reshape the honours system" (leading article, 31 December) deserves responses. In common with the sentiments of many recipients, Nigel Hawthorne said, "It's an honour for the profession". So why not give honours to the organisation in which a recipient works, not to an individual?

Let the Queen give honours only to those who merit them for voluntary activity. At present CBEs often go to the best paid, OBEs to the fairly well paid and MBEs to the rest. Could this be class-based? Perish the thought under New Labour.

Why do members of the armed services receive honours for unspecified activities? These should be discontinued.

The publicising by Downing Street of the fact that members of the "nationalist community" in Northern Ireland had declined to accept honours sets a useful precedent. All refusals should be publicised and the reasons given. This would helpfully develop the debate over the future of honours.

Why do we still regard honours with amused respect? We should treat with bemused contempt a system which often gives an honour to those already well rewarded. On these and other grounds I refused an OBE in 1993.

JOHN D ANDERSON  
Shipley, West Yorkshire

## Road and rail

Sir: The deal by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and Chancellor Gordon Brown to earmark road toll revenues for public transport investment is one whose significance has not received the public recognition it deserves ("Prescott bins the

spin for real policies", 30 December).

No longer will councils' transport investment packages have to rely entirely upon the unpredictable central government grant regime. For cities such as Edinburgh the agreement presents the opportunity to look to the long term and deliver a world-class public transport system. Without this it will be impossible to achieve our traffic reduction targets and the strong economy and healthy environment to which we aspire.

For years it was widely perceived that Treasury resistance to earmarking would eventually win through. Cllr DAVID BEGG  
Convener of Transportation  
Edinburgh

Sir: The Deputy Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer are reported to be looking for more substance and less spin. They should begin with the railways.

Traditionally our railways, even before the state system was imposed in 1948, were (though fleeced by the Treasury in two world wars and during privatisation) regarded as a public service. Now Railtrack and the operating companies have as their main concerns their shareholders.

Railtrack now routinely presents repair and maintenance as though it were an investment; the operators, under a feeble system of regulation and franchising, increasingly ignore the interests of travellers as Treasury subsidies diminish; and all freight operators, despite their competent performance, wait in vain for Railtrack to provide adequate trackage; they cannot build their own dedicated main lines as long as the split between operations and ownership of infrastructure persists.

Meanwhile, the factions in John Prescott's super-ministry lack coherent thought. A new "strategic" rail authority will be one more layer of bureaucracy incapable of correcting inequities between different modes of inland transport.

Yet the nation needs a decent railway system. Hypothecation of taxes upon transport - at last permitted by the Treasury - should be directed in part to buying back for the public a controlling interest in the railways as part of a comprehensive policy of public enterprise, both passenger and freight.

Professor GEORGE  
HUXLEY  
Church Eynstone, Oxfordshire

## Holiday plans

Sir: I agree with Emrys Turner (letters, 31 December) that we could do with a more even distribution of public holidays, but I would go further. Why not allow employees to choose their own eight days, in addition to their personal holiday allowance?

With careful planning many firms could then operate throughout the year, instead of closing for up to two weeks over Christmas and the New Year and for long weekends at four other times.

If that worked, why not then consider a still greater choice of days off to include those we usually take on Saturdays and Sundays? Many businesses, I know, need all employees in at more or less the same times, but if working practices are becoming more flexible such changes might be accommodated.

ANDREW FITCAIRN-HILL  
London SW7

## The name game

Sir: Philip Parkin's understanding that registrars have the responsibility of advising parents on the usual spelling of names (letter, 28 December) may or may not be correct. Even if it is, the successful completion of this duty does depend on the registrar being able to spell.

For some years I worked with a colleague whose parents had come to England as Jewish refugees from Austria in the 1930s. When their daughter was born shortly after they arrived in England, they decided to call her Anita. However, their grasp of English was still poor, and so they relied on the

registrar to spell the chosen name correctly.

Sadly, the registrar chose to spell it with a double "n" as Annita. Throughout her life whenever my colleague has been asked for her name for some official or semi-official reason, she has had to spell it. And as a child at school she was often disciplined by her teachers for not being able to spell her own name correctly.

GORDON WHITEHEAD  
Ripon, North Yorkshire

## IN BRIEF

Sir: Every year at this time we read about the thousands of "game" birds, which are slaughtered for sport. Not a peep from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Is it not time that it changed its name or changed section 410 of its objectives "... to take no part in the question of killing of game birds and legitimate sport of that character"? Members of the RSPB have not been allowed to debate or vote on this issue. Is the RSPB afraid of its patrons?

C SAUNDERS  
Sale, Cheshire

Sir: I'm not sure why Mrs Dean thinks St Stephen's Day is an "appropriate time" to visit a "wonderful building" (letter 31 December). I am sure she would have got in free of charge on the previous day. She might even have learnt a little more of what the church actually teaches.

SUE GOODMAN  
Tunton, Somerset

Sir: The Australian meaning of "wowsers" as a religious fanatic reported by Christopher Hawtree (Words, 23 December) and Len Clarke (letter 1 January) is certainly earlier than any British or North American usage. However, my mother knew the word "wowsers" in the East Midlands in the 1940s, but out with this meaning. She had a saying for any object of a bizarre or indeterminate purpose: it was "a whimsham for a wowsers to wind up the moon".

DAVID J SHAW  
Canterbury

## Saturday afternoon fever

Continued from page 1  
marathon dance, like most morris events, was in aid of charity.)

As the dances continue outside The Greyhound, and the charity collection circulates, there's a notable absence of mickey-taking from the crowd. But the Ravensbourne Meo do get their fair share, often from people quoting the old joke, "Try anything once - except incest and folk-dancing". They are played also by cries of "Which one's Morris?", which apparently really gets to you when you've

heard it a thousand times. (The derivation of the word, incidentally, is unknown.)

Morris dancers are undoubtedly a magnet for every second-rate satirist in Britain, and several of my phone calls to sides went unreturned before I hooked up with Ravensbourne, who agreed to meet me out of genuine affability, and because they're hoping to recruit new members. They describe themselves as an only "averagely thriving side but extremely traditional". By this they mean that

their side is male only, which they think is the correct approach, given that morris dancing is probably something to do with ancient fertility rites.

There are about a hundred sides of a dozen or so men each in the exclusively male association, the Morris Ring. But in the early Seventies, women started to, as they would with some justification have it, re-started morris, and the mixed-sex sides are catered for by The Morris Federation and The Open Morris. These together ac-

count for marginally more dancers than are in the Ring.

The folk-rock movement of the late Sixties and early Seventies helped morris dancing; some newer leisure trends (like Sky bloody Sport) have worked against it. Other folkish commodities are currently more fashionable - especially anything involving the word "Celtic". Generally, though, morris dancing chimes in well with our heritage-minded age.

Heritage - in some ways a perpetuation of the rural romanti-

cism described above - is about searching for the consolation of tradition in a fragmented and fast-moving world. Intertwined with this is post-modernism: our mix-and-match culture. How else to account for the following scene, played out in The Greyhound when the dancing has stopped?

The Ravensbourne Men are dipping their personalised tankards (not worn on the belt, perhaps, but certainly kept close at hand) into their beer bucket and belting out the Queen hit "We Will Rock You".

They started doing this on Boxing Day a couple of years ago and it has, to coin a phrase, "now become an annual fixture". Listening to their lusty choruses of the song, overlain with strange and rather beautiful folk harmonies, it is obvious that the second-rate satirists of England have no cause to worry. Morris dancing is good for another hundred years at least.

Anyone interested in joining the Ravensbourne Morris Men should call Ian Peretti on 0181-643 3863









## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD IN 1998

Bill Clinton • Labour and sleaze • Northern Ireland • Kosovo • General Pinochet • World Cup • Global economic crisis

## LABOUR AND SLEAZE

Reflections on the allegations of misbehaviour levelled at members of Tony Blair's government

## SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

IMPRESSION AND image assume overwhelming importance to a Government whose success has been based on successfully manipulating them. And the prevailing impression is starting to be that "Tony's cronies" are selling control over the formulation of Government policy to the highest bidder. "We must be pure," the Prime Minister said. The purest form of democracy remains the parliamentary system, difficult as it may be to rouse public enthusiasm in defence of this institution.

## THE TIMES

THE DRAPER episode reflects the culture of a political party that has been propelled to office by the energy and dynamism of a small clique of advisers. If the investigation into the activities of special advisers exposes wrongdoing, the culprits should be dismissed. Whatever the case, if Mr Blair really wants "to clean up politics", a noble objective, then he should begin very close to home.

## DAILY TELEGRAPH

HOW CAN Mr Robinson justify being a Treasury minister in a government pledged to clamp down on the use of tax havens, when he himself is the beneficiary of a Guernsey trust exempt from UK tax? And how on earth can he reconcile this with his proposals to restrict the tax breaks available on everybody else's savings? Throughout this whole affair, Mr Robinson seems to have gone to great lengths to comply with the letter of the rules, rather than their spirit. That might be permissible for a businessman. It is not good enough for a minister.

## NEWS OF THE WORLD

RON DAVIES blames his downfall on an error of judgement. But it was more than that. It was a betrayal of trust. Blair showed great faith in the man when he promoted him to Secretary of State for Wales. He con-

sidered him the right man for the job and gave it to him in the belief that he would honour that trust. Instead Ron Davies betrayed his party and dragged politics into the gutter.

## THE SUN

BLAIR'S GOVERNMENT used to be as pure as snow. Now a part of it has drifted. Geoffrey Robinson faces another inquiry into his business life. The Paymaster General is accused of 13 breaches of company law. He remains innocent until proved guilty but if he is a man of honour he should withdraw from office until the probe is complete. Otherwise, Trade and Industry supremo Peter Mandelson will have the embarrassing task of sitting in judgment on a fellow Minister.

## BIRMINGHAM POST

IT IS almost impossible to believe that Blair's spin-doctors were not aware of all the issues surrounding Mr Davies's departure. Indeed, the Welsh Secretary was accompanied by the Prime Minister's press secretary when he gave his one and only television interview on the subject. That being the case, Downing Street's intimations of ignorance sound more like attempts to deflect questioning.

## THE GUARDIAN

OUR VIEW remains that Peter Mandelson was guilty of vanity rather than veracity and that since the source of his funding – a loan, not a gift, was from a ministerial colleague rather than an outside businessman, it hardly plumbs the depths of the Tory years.

## DAILY MAIL

MR BLAIR came to power promising an end to even the appearance of sleaze. Yet from the Formula One imbroglio to Geoffrey Robinson's labyrinthine financial affairs and Mr Mandelson's bizarre mortgage arrangements, that "purity" has often seemed less than pristine.

## The year of Monicagate

## THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

PRESIDENT CLINTON has joined an ignominious list. The House of Representatives' decision to allow the House Judiciary Committee to launch an impeachment inquiry against Clinton, places him alongside Nixon and Johnson, both of whom went through stages of impeachment. What a badge of shame. It's not too late for the President to spare the country more protracted turmoil by resigning. If not, the inquiry will begin after the elections. May it be fair and prompt. The public deserves at least that much.

## THE WASHINGTON POST

THE HOUSE made the right decision in authorising an open-ended inquiry into whether Clinton should be impeached. Democrats tried to limit the investigation, arguing that Republicans would abuse the writ. Our instinct is to doubt that. If the Republicans indulge in a standing inquest into the President's behaviour, as a few have threatened, it will be they who pay, with cause, the greater price in terms of public opinion.

## THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

THIS IS all familiar stuff but it's going to be rehearsed nonetheless. Given the public's strongly expressed wish to have this whole matter over and done with, it will be interesting to see how much attention is paid to the planned coverage of the committee's hearings. Chairman Hyde originally and laudably said he intended to hold quick, decorous and focused hearings. Right now, unhappily, none of these objectives seem realistic. We may have seen this movie before, but like it or not we're going to have to sit through it again.

## NEW YORK TIMES

WE STILL do not see impeachment as the appropriate legal response. A substantial majority of the American people would not support impeachment or removal on the existing facts, and Mr Starr's bottom line



## IMPEACHMENT OF BILL CLINTON

US comment on the wisdom of Congress removing the President from office for committing 'high crimes and misdemeanors'

yesterday was that he has no more to offer Mr Starr has dark and reasonable suspicions about, say, jobs for silence, but he cannot prove them. Those parts that he can prove, such as Mr Clinton's blatant lying under oath about sex, will not be supported as grounds for impeachment by a majority of the House, even though it is controlled by the Republicans.

## BOSTON GLOBE

UNDOUBTEDLY, THE president, who is also the nation's chief law enforcement officer, lied to the investigators and to the American people. But do these lies constitute perjury in the narrow legal sense, and if so, do they constitute grounds for impeachment according to the Constitution

of the United States? Undoubtedly, the investigation itself has been deeply flawed. But so flawed that its findings and charges should be dismissed – the fruit of the poison tree, as the lawyers say?

## PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

THE EXTREME punishment of removal from office is disproportionate to Clinton's misconduct. Both houses of Congress ought to pass a searing condemnation of his disregard for the law. Some critics have called such a censure an affront to the constitution, which specifies the process of impeachment and conviction. On the contrary, it is a sensible middle ground between the over-reaction of impeachment and the unacceptability of doing nothing.

## SALON MAGAZINE

OPPOSITION OF impeachment stress the harm that the process might inflict on the country. Excuse me? Is there any Democrat who has voiced second thoughts about the Watergate inquiries? Wasn't it an extreme step to terminate a president who had run the country well for six years and remained popular with the majority of the voting public until the moment his own party turned against him? Suppose that a few honorable Democrats were to step forward now to provide the concrete evidence of Clinton's obstructions of justice and to raise a non-partisan voice in support of his removal – what do you think that would do to the current poll numbers? (David Horowitz)

## HOUSTON CHRONICLE

TO THOSE who say they already know the facts and evidence against the president, we say fine. Let those facts and that evidence be laid out in a formal proceeding. On the other hand, if some evidence and details are not widely known, the whole purpose of the Senate trial is to get them on the table for the president to defend and the senators to judge. Only then will the nation as a whole gain a full understanding of the seriousness of the charges and how the Congress is dealing with them.

## PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Analysis of whether the Good Friday Agreement signed at Stormont will bring an end to the Troubles in Ulster

THE IRISH NEWS  
N. Ireland

UNIONISM IS to embark on a realignment that has been overdue for 20 years. Nationalists will be spectators, reminiscent of the turmoil that afflicted Unionism in the early 70s as its politicians struggled to avoid the implications of equality.

Today they can play a unique role by using their preferences to support the Unionists who want change.

THE IRISH TIMES  
Eire

IT WILL soon become clear whether pro-Agreement Unionists can countenance Sinn Fein as part of the new Northern Ireland executive in the absence of decommissioning. The evidence is they cannot. The reality is the Republican movement is conditioned to accept the kind of compromises that the agreement represents.

BELFAST TELEGRAPH  
N. Ireland

MR TRIMBLE has signalled, in his cautious way, that the cold war between the two traditions should be at an end. There is a long way to go, and the parties linked to paramilitaries who have indicated that their war is over have yet to prove it, by action on decommissioning. There is a good chance, however, that if the assembly vote goes the right way, Mr Trimble will be able to institute, as First Minister, the new Northern Ireland of which his predecessors could only dream.

REPUBLICAN NEWS  
Eire and N. Ireland

IRISH UNITY and independence are the best context within which to tackle the political and social inequalities that face the Irish people. Sinn

Fein is looking beyond the present situation and towards a future based on freedom, justice and peace. A vote for Sinn Fein is a vote for the continuance of the peace process. Sinn Fein has been the dynamic for change over the years.

The best way to ensure that the pace of political progress continues is to go out and vote Sinn Fein.

IRISH INDEPENDENT  
Eire

TRIMBLE IS banking on the hope that a clear majority of Protestants are prepared to step into the political unknown. But there is still so much mistrust in Northern Ireland's politics that it will take a long time for nationalists to accept that this politician may have turned a new corner, and that Unionism is perfectly capable of being re-fashioned to include inclusiveness and partnership.

## WAR IN KOSOVO

Reactions to the threat of armed intervention by Nato to end the conflict in Kosovo

DIE WELT  
Germany

IT IS vital that Nato demonstrates to Milosevic, that his military actions are no longer appropriate. If he is still unmoved, Nato has to increase its potential threat. It is likely that Nato will be brought into action, which would be a lengthy and difficult operation. Is this really what is wanted?

HONG KONG STANDARD  
China

THE YUGOSLAVS are bent on wiping out as many Muslims as they can, creating a new Holocaust. American and European leaders are abetting this massacre of innocent Muslims by pretending to be issuing ultimatums. By their intransigence, Americans and Europeans are building up hate among the Arab states that will boomerang. The senseless killing has to be stopped.

SEVODNYA  
Russia

BELGRADE OFFICIALS claim to have received letters from Russians offering to take part in the struggle against Nato with the Yugoslav army. Balkan roulette unfolds with invisible speed. This theatre of the absurd may become a theatre of war at any moment, with intervention in a sovereign state without the UN's mandate. All this could shake the system of international relations, with unpredictable consequences.

HONG KONG STANDARD  
China

THE BLOODSHED must be stopped. But care must be taken not to play into Milosevic's hands. Kosovo isn't (yet) a case of Bosnia revisited. Military action may be required but not before all other efforts are exhausted to isolate Milosevic and reverse his latest folly.

## EXTRADITION OF GENERAL PINOCHET

Views on whether the UK should send Augusto Pinochet to Spain to face trial for murder and torture when he was head of state in Chile

EL PAIS  
Spain

IS THERE a more appropriate commemoration of the anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights than the British Home Secretary's decision to allow his courts to process our request for the extradition of Pinochet. The case has not only aroused international passions and unleashed controversy, but taken on a direction and speed that few would have dared predict. It is doing more for international law than decades of conventions ignored by signatory governments.

EL MERCURIO  
Chile

THE BRITISH Labour Government has sought to ignore the fact that Chile is a sovereign and independent country. However, the minister (Britain's Home Secretary) can at any moment take political factors into account and decree the end



of the extradition process, and the gravest situation that Chilean juridical sovereignty has had to face this century.

EL MUNDO  
Spain

PINOCHET CAN no longer expect the British to be magnanimous. Their government has shown courage in taking a decision that means he will not be able to leave Britain for a long time. He must be cursing the

THE WASHINGTON POST  
US

A ROGUE Spanish judge is using international law to trample Chilean sovereignty and overrule (its) functioning judiciary and democratically-elected government. And advocates of the International Criminal Court are cheering. (Jesse Heim)

## WORLD CUP HOOLIGANISM

The French newspapers on the fighting among fans during the World Cup

## L'EST REPUBLICAIN

OF COURSE the World Cup is something other than the tedious unravelling of hatred we have seen. However, let's stop being so naive and recognise once and for all that this festestable behaviour has become indistinguishable from that leather ball. Those who despise the sport can only conclude that it acts as battle ground for faithless, lawless rutes who respect nothing, even others' lives.

## LE MONDE

THIS TIME it's something different, something much worse, a blood stain defies this World Cup. A policeman left for dead, battered, lynched with blows from iron bars by a



commando of German hooligans. The football doesn't incite them; it shelters them with guilty complacency. Football is a way of release, of camouflage or, in the case of the World Cup, a media opportunity.

## LIBERATION

CHEERED ON by a chauvinist crowd and crushed by its brutal

supporters, each football team symbolises what is most intolerant about each nation. It becomes a metaphor for war, but fought according to strict rules: on what battlefield could a referee interrupt and send off those who are fighting dirty? After which war would the vanquished accept defeat and promise to do better next time?

## L'EQUIPE

WITH EACH new drama the football professionals and fanatics ask themselves what on earth they did to invoke such barbarity. Nothing, of course. Let's not be hypocritical. The World Cup will overcome. Hundreds of thousands of people will still carry their passion; the cheers will echo around the stadiums, and the forces of law will be standing at the ready.

## QUOTES OF THE YEAR

"I can honestly say I have voted for all the parties in my time and it's a constant disappointment."  
Jeremy Paxman, broadcaster and author

"Republican guns have been silenced, they have been taken out of commission."  
Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein

"There is a culture of cronyism at the heart of this government which is distinctly unpleasant."  
William Hague, leader of the opposition

"God is in Spaghetti Junction as much as anywhere else."  
Archdeacon John Barton, Birmingham Cathedral

"What makes for a good economy makes for a good society."  
Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer

"I am not a great cook, and I've never been interested in being one."  
Delia Smith, celebrity chef

## GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

Fears that the world economy might fall into a deflationary spiral

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE  
US

THIS CRISIS is not an Asian crisis – it's a global emerging market crisis. The distinction is important, economists say, because, if there is nothing inherently Asian about the causes of the crisis, Latin America and Eastern Europe could easily be the next victims of economic turmoil. Economists say that the currents that contributed to the crisis are still at work because there are fundamental structural flaws in the global financial system.

THE AGE  
Australia

THESE MERRY-go-round politics have sent a ripple of panic through the West. The rouble's

difficulties were echoed in the plight of other national currencies. The financial markets' fears of a Russian collapse have led to demands that the West stop bailing Russia out, and the Russians solve their own financial problems. It is a solution as blind as the panic that spawned it.

LE MONDE  
France

NOT A day passes without more monetary, financial or economic bad news. After Russia, which will be the next country to founder? One very dark scenario could be possible a Latin American recession, which would shake Wall Street and provoke mass panic and huge withdrawals in American households. Psychological phenomenon have taken on such

importance in contemporary economics that turnaround can never be ruled out. The world economy is now in the hands of the markets. The Asia crisis hasn't led to the general ruin which some predicted. But it has taught us that economic matter has become explosive.

BUSINESS TIMES  
Singapore

ALARM BELLS are ringing in financial capitals around the world. If the run of seven fat years on Wall Street is about to end, are seven lean years to follow? American investors now seem persuaded that, for all the Federal Reserve's concerns about inflation, it is the deflationary spiral they should fear. Deflation could be the thing that ultimately unravels the United States stock market.

After  
could









The country's fastest-growing religion and one of our biggest landowners, the Mormon church is building a second spiritual home in Norfolk and Suffolk.

By Emma Cook

Surrounded by an expanse of bleak, muddy fields, Clive Jolliffe, fifth-generation Mormon and local businessman, has briefly stopped his silver Land-Rover to point out the impressive swathe of land before us. He sweeps his hand from one end of the relentlessly flat East Anglian landscape to the other. "We go right up to those plane trees over there and down as far as those fields the other side." Everything we can see, then. "Well, it's good value for money round here. We love it - it's the best farmland in the country," enthuses Clive, revving up the Land-Rover and heading back for early-morning prayer at farm headquarters.

Welcome to Manor Farm, 15 minutes from Huntingdon, an area that's rapidly resembling the Mormon's second Utah. Their chapels crop up around here more frequently than Tesco supermarkets or McDonald's drive-ins. They even look uncannily similar, assuming the same post-modern, toy-town style. Like McDonald's, they seem to want to open as many branches as possible without people really noticing what's inside, hence the benign, jolly-looking, red brick and wood facades.

In one of these jolly-looking buildings on Manor Farm, prayer has just begun. It's 8.30am and Marie, one of Clive's administrators, leads the service. They gather around the boardroom table in a sparse-looking business suite. There are some flip charts and an impressive-looking mission statement pinned on the wall, just next to a picture of Jesus. Typed out in big bold letters, it says: "Our business is farmland. Profit motivated. No Excuses. Managed for profits. Increased productivity. For investment; for strategic and welfare resource, world-wide based."

Marie is dressed smartly in navy and cream, and her business colleagues all wear suits. Clive manages to look smartest of all, in a crisp white shirt and tweed jacket. It could be a Marks & Spencer's personnel meeting until Marie starts reading: "Our Father, we are grateful that we are here in this area. We especially pray for farmworkers and hope that they work with machines and chemicals in safety..." One or two of them nod reverently, heads lowered and hands clasped.

The Mormons own some 14,000 acres in Britain, making them one of Britain's biggest landowners, along with the Queen and Railtrack. But they've chosen the fertile farmland of Norfolk and Suffolk to really make their spiritual home outside Salt Lake City. Over the last three years, with the least fuss or publicity, they've been buying up farms throughout the area. In a close farming community not known for its openness to strangers, you can see why they wouldn't want to shout about their recent and rapid land acquisitions. They already have their critics - political and religious.



The Mormons are covert about their financial dealings in the farmlands of East Anglia, but blatant about their religious intentions - they want to convert the local population. Bryn Collon

## How the Mormons brought Salt Lake City to East Anglia

A few weeks ago, the *Daily Mail* claimed that as one of the biggest landowners in the area, the Mormon church is also one of the biggest beneficiaries of the EU farming subsidy - around £1m. There are rumours, which the Mormons vehemently deny, that 10 per cent of their profits go straight back to the church in Utah. This news didn't go down too well in some quarters. Bill Cash, the Conservative Eurosceptic, described it as "regrettable". Tony Juniper, the Friends of the Earth director, fulminated about farming techniques, telling one paper: "Brussels is paying a million pounds to a foreign-owned multinational to squirt chemicals over what's left of our countryside and wildlife."

Rather than lying low after so much controversy, the Mormons have raised their head above the parapet with a national advertising campaign in the *Daily Mail* and the *Evening Standard*. "It's a sophisticated operation," says their spokesman, Bryan Grant. "We're sending out literature and a free video to 40,000 homes. We're just putting our toe in the water. We'll possibly come back and try television."

In East Anglia, though, it may take more than a free video to put a gloss on Mormon operations. Some of the local farmers want to know why their lucrative land is passing into strange hands; residents are beginning to notice a

marked increase in unusual young men dressed in black suits with American accents, standing outside Tesco and trying to collar them to talk about "God's intention for mankind". They don't exactly blend in with the locals. Reverend Walter King, team rector in the rural dean of Huntingdon, recalls: "Once, a few of them came and sat in the back of the church while I was giving a service - it was all a bit spooky." He also worries about the young men in dark suits. "You see them walking down the high street and they stick out a mile. They're from another planet and they'll stay there. The sad thing is that they seem very detached."

Still, it is essential that the Mormons, or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, as they prefer to be known, do integrate with their East Anglian neighbours. However covert their financial activities may be, their religious motivations are anything but. The Mormons' raison d'être is to convert the non-believers, and the real riches they have their eye on in East Anglia, above and beyond the land, is the sheer volume of potential converts.

An unbelievably exciting prospect for Elder Marchant and Elder Tuft, 20-year-old Nathan and 19-year-old Jason respectively. Both are on the streets knocking on people's doors, 12 hours a day, five days a week. They return each evening to a

cramped flat in Huntingdon to study the Bible and do whatever else Mormons do to relax.

Elder Marchant, a Sylvester Stallone lookalike in a Taramino suit, has never tasted alcohol (caffeine is also prohibited), smoked or dated girls. "I don't fool around with that stuff. It's far too distracting," he laughs. Like all Mormons, he believes in Armageddon and is encouraged to keep food reserves for a year at least. The Mormons appear to spend a lot of time hoarding food - maybe this explains why their churches look like Tescos. Elder Marchant may be well-prepared, but he still lives in fear of Judgement Day. "Yes, I am scared," he laughs. "And I do worry for others." Thus, his desire to convert the non-believers before the big day, whenever that may be. "It could be any time," he says vaguely.

Watching the two of them in action is a daunting sight - one that could easily put you off ever answering your door again. Perhaps it is their fanatic enthusiasm; the way Elder Marchant desperately clutches his copy of the Bible (with certain pages highlighted) while standing a little too close to some poor victim who has just opened the door. Maybe it is the unappealing prospect of this offer - "Could we just step inside and watch a six-minute video of the Nativity with you so we can talk about the birth of Christ?"

delivered in a booming American drawl. Somebody should tell them that if they have 60 seconds to tempt a stranger, this particular appeal is unlikely to do the trick. Exactly how they present their message, and who to, isn't under consideration. There is no sense of refining their style or their target group. They will rant at anyone in their path: impatient neighbours who slam doors in their faces; vagrants; clearly uninterested teenage girls; a stray dog - well, almost.

Half an hour of door-knocking with these two and you feel impelled to warn residents in advance - shout through their letterboxes and tell them what's about to land on their doorstep. Yet the locals seem impressively well-prepared - "Sorry, love. We don't have a video recorder." "No, sorry, I'm converted to another faith" - and so on. Marchant and Tuft remain dizzyingly enthusiastic, their fanaticism undented. "I've converted three this year and I could do better," he admits. "It's better in South America - they do three a week. It's on fire out there. But rejection is the spice of life."

They do seem curiously untouched by other people's reactions. "They smile and speak a lot, but I don't think they really listen to what you say," says Reverend King rather gloomily. "I suppose they're growing quickly because they're

terribly energetic. Saying that, they're marginal and certainly not regarded by any recognisable Christian faith."

These people also have such an insatiable appetite to convert, they don't limit themselves to living non-believers either. One quirk of their faith is to baptise posthumously - consequently, they have the largest genealogical database in the world. A few years ago, reporters discovered that church leaders removed the names of 380,000 Jewish Holocaust victims from their list of the posthumously baptised after protests from Jewish groups.

That's barely a blip for the fastest-growing religion in Britain. According to spokesman Bryan Grant, the Mormons create a new congregation every two weeks, and build a new chapel every month. In the mid-Sixties, he says, there were 6,500 British members. Now, there are nearly 190,000, their average age between 18 and 35. "Place that against a backdrop of declining church figures with a much more geriatric age profile, and it proves we must be doing something right."

Finance and efficient organisation may play their part, but the real reason for their success, which they're not all that keen to stress, is the less than radical nature of their values. In a culture where New Labour likes to dominate the moral high ground, the Mormon faith is happy to take

that one step further, a great deal further than, say, the Church of England. In many ways, it is a religion that builds on the value system of Middle England's *Daily Mail* readers, minus the affluent lifestyles - it is no surprise that that is where they placed their recent press ads.

Scratch the surface of their spokespeople and it doesn't take long for the reactionary responses to surface. "We put so much of our money into welfare operations. We've given a hundred million to aid in Third World countries." Before adding: "We won't help anybody who won't help themselves. We've got no sympathy for someone who sits and wallows in self-pity." Nor have they got time for homosexuality: "It's sinful." Abortion: "A sinful and revolting practice." Drug addicts: "Some people need to be locked in a room to do cold turkey until you can reason with them." Single mothers are none too popular, either.

The more Grant allows his views to flow freely, the more the Mormons begin to sound like a political machine operating with military-style precision. It's not an original observation, according to Grant. "Do you know what Tolstoy once said about us? - 'The two most organised institutions are the Prussian army and the Mormon church.' And where's the Prussian army now. I'd like to know?" he asks triumphantly.

## Who needs sex when you can go shopping?

I was Willy Russell's Shirley Valentine who first compared sex to shopping - seeing both as overrated, involving an awful lot of pushing and shoving and producing very little in the end.

According to a new book, she was right. Sex and supermarkets are inextricably linked, says Stephen Brown, professor of retailing at the University of Ulster and one of the authors of *Romancing the Market*. Both activities are apparently fraught. Frustration, disappointment and regret are just as common as ecstasy, bliss and satisfaction - both in bed and on the high street.

The similarities between the two activities come down to

men and women's different attitudes, he says. "Men, to put it bluntly, adopt a wham-bam, thank-you-ma'am approach to shopping. They know what they want, they expect to get it and they are in and out as quickly as possible." Women, on the other hand, engage in an impossible search for the retailing equivalent of Mr Right. This involves carefully examining what's on offer before settling for their preferred choice, which is usually the least worst option. "As far as men are concerned," says Professor Brown, "women take far too long. And as far as women are concerned, men don't take enough time to do it properly."

He says that women are prone to "occasional wild, reckless, impulsive, impassioned flings with products that make them go weak at the knees and which may never be unwrapped or worn". Meanwhile men's "love 'em and leave 'em" approach only alters when they encounter something that

means a lot to them - such as compact discs, computer games or books.

The difference in shopping style between the sexes means that it is "far from being a form of foreplay [but]... fraught with danger".

A study of undergraduate students found that many went shopping as an opportunity to "ogle members of the opposite sex", and also found shopping malls a less pressurised place to meet people than the traditional party, pub or disco.

"Certainly many women seem to take the opportunity to get dressed up or try to look their best when they go shopping, just in case they meet the man of their dreams," says Professor Brown.

Yet although the erotic potential is great, it can also prove deeply unsatisfying. According to the research, shopping focuses on one's fear of physical imperfections and whether one can match up. Unfortunately, there's usually someone much better looking

much better dressed and financially, physically or maternally better off than ourselves just ahead of us in the queue. "These beautiful people make everyone else feel like a fat, frumpy failure by invidious comparison," Professor Brown says.

Sudden identity crises come to a climax in the changing room, where harsh lighting and wall-to-wall mirrors contrive to condemn all but the most egomaniacal to profound paroxysms of self-loathing. And it gets worse - "Above and beyond putting one's pale, pustular and podgy physique on painful display," adds Professor Brown, "consumer goods themselves can castrate, frustrate or emasculate the shopping experience."

For men buying certain categories of goods with sexual or narcissistic connotations, such as moisturisers and toiletries, shopping can prove excruciatingly embarrassing, though not as mortifying as standing outside female changing rooms

(which are unfailingly situated in the lingerie section) while their partners wrestle and ruminate inside.

"Shopping, like sex, is often far from satisfactory," Professor Brown concludes, saying that it is both physically frustrating when imperfections are exposed in changing rooms but also metaphorically frustrating on account of all that unrequited love for must-have-but-can't-have merchandise.

"Anguish, bitterness, betrayal, pain, remorse, regret, despair, self-abasement - in fact all the symptoms of heartache - are on agonising display," he says. Sounds suspiciously like a particularly neurotic episode of *Ally McBeal*. Expect the sex 'n' shopping episode on a screen near you very soon.

GLENDIA COOPER

*Romancing the Market*, edited by Stephen Brown, Anne Marie Doherty and Bill Clarke, is published by Routledge at £19.99



Consumer goods, like sex, can lead to heartache or bliss

Jeff Spicer/Alpha

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# André Dewavrin

IT WAS good fortune that brought Captain André Dewavrin to St Stephen's House on the Victoria Embankment in June 1940. He had been temporarily stationed in Trentham Park and had heard vague talk of a French general who refused to accept the French armistice with Germany and who had announced his intention to carry on the war in the name of Free France. Once he had more precise information Dewavrin set off immediately for St Stephen's House and after getting lost several times presented himself to General de Gaulle.

De Gaulle interviewed him with a cold formality. Presumably he already knew quite a lot about this 29-year-old officer of the regular army, who had studied at the Ecole Polytechnique, lectured on fortifications at the military college of Saint Cyr before 1939, and who had served as an engineer in the ill-fated expedition to Norway where he had taken part in the first battle of Narvik. Once he learned that Dewavrin spoke English easily, he appointed him one of his staff officers.

The first interview did not need to be "glacial" as Dewavrin later described it. He had not come empty-handed. In spite of orders to the contrary he had succeeded in bringing back from Norway a number of French tanks and vehicles which he had deposited in the Southampton docks. These were, as he proudly wrote in his memoirs (*De Bureau, Londres and 10 Duke Street, Londres*, both 1947, and *Missions Secrètes*, 1981), almost the whole of the material then available to "fighting France" in its earliest days. In the summer of 1940 it was clear that the Germans were establishing powerful occupation forces in France, especially along the Channel coast. It was therefore essential that both the British and the leaders of Free France should be informed about what was happening. Undercover agents needed to be sent to France and establish centres of information and to communicate with London. In July the British created the Special Operations Executive (SOE) under the leadership of

Maurice Buckmaster. De Gaulle selected Dewavrin to set up a similar organisation, which came to be called the Bureau Central de Renseignements et d'Action (BCRA).

He quickly gathered around him some 60 men who, he thought, filled the requirements necessary for the dangerous tasks. British experts, Sir Claude Dansey and Commander Kenneth Cohen of the Royal Navy, directed their training. Dewavrin, whilst encouraging their sense of adventure, emphasised the realities of their tasks. "Renseignements" meant spying, "Action" meant sabotage.

Just as the conspirators surrounding the Duc de Guise in 16th-century France concealed their identities by adopting the names of dif-

ferent châteaux, so Dewavrin's men adopted cover-names taken from the Paris métro. Dewavrin called himself Passy and afterwards was universally known as Colonel Passy. He had the reputation of being single-minded and ruthless, never forgiving those who criticised him or let him down. Those who met him were struck by his baby face and misleadingly easy smile. Dressed in a dark suit, wearing a bowler hat and carrying an umbrella, he sometimes appeared too English to be true.

But whereas De Gaulle would listen in silence to what some Frenchman, newly arrived in England, had to say about France, Passy would interrupt them, suggest things, ask them to repeat themselves. He was always an inquisitor and most people who met him during these years remembered his piercing blue eyes, a sign of his determination.

With some invaluable assistants he succeeded in establishing a whole series of implantations in France that were centres of information and that could become focal points for future action and sabotage. But, apart from the inevitable difficulty of knowing who could be trusted, there was the discovery of existing groups, often amongst regular army units, that were anti-German and ready to fight against the Germans, but which were also opposed to de Gaulle and loyal to Pétain. When men of the British SOE countered such groups, they did not experience the same embarrassment.

Relations between the SOE and the BCRA were very complicated. At the top, although Passy and Buck-

master had their difficult moments, when they discussed matters together as they frequently did - since their offices were close to each other - they usually agreed. But Passy needed British help since he was always short of manpower (although he recruited more helpers he never had more than 400) and required considerable assistance in a multitude of ways. Many British agents, like the British government itself, did not think that bringing de Gaulle to power in France was one of their war aims. There was intense suspicion of the Free French.

Sometimes this suspicion was political. There was concern, amongst both the French and the British, that Passy authorised important missions to men who had been members of the pre-war Fascist organisation known as La Cagoule. It was said that Passy himself had been a member of this group. This was so insistently said that General de Gaulle summoned Passy and asked him directly whether it was true; some resistance leaders in France refused to have anything to do with Passy, and the rumour was to follow him after the war. But he constantly denied it.

On 25 October 1941 Jean Moulin came to London and met General de Gaulle. Much was learned about the state of the Resistance in France and much was planned to unite the different movements under the control of Jean Moulin and the authority of de Gaulle. After the meeting Passy and Moulin attended a special parachute class and they became friends.

The important moment in the history of the unification of the resistance movements occurred in the early months of 1943. In February Passy joined up with the left-wing Pierre Brossolette, sometimes presented as the real hero of the Resistance, in northern France. Accompanied by Flight-Lieutenant FFE. Yeo-Thomas, in six weeks they made a systematic survey of the situation and made Paris the capital of the Resistance.

Once the Liberation of France began Passy turned to combat. In August 1944 he parachuted to Brittany near to Guinecamp, and joined the Breton resistance. They captured the important part of Palmpol and took many German prisoners. In 1945 with one job ended, de Gaulle expressed his admiration for Dewavrin (who in England had been awarded the DSO and MC) by putting him in charge of intelligence, in the Ministry of Defence. His position there became insecure once de Gaulle resigned in 1946, and he left the post.

But de Gaulle's successor listened readily to the story that he had provided a considerable amount of money for the launching of the newspaper *France-Soir*. For a time Dewavrin was imprisoned, accused of having misused office funds that had been destined for the Resistance. But he was released and nothing was ever proved.



Dewavrin ('Colonel Passy') in the 1940s

Hulton Getty

Banque Worms. He was involved in many controversies over events from 1940 to 1945, including a lively quarrel with the eminent British historian M.R.D. Foot (who had had a distinguished military career in the services concerned). Dewavrin did not agree with Foot's history of the SOE.

André Dewavrin also shocked many Gaullists when he praised

François Mitterrand as a resistance leader and urged the French to vote for him in 1981.

DOUGLAS JOHNSON

André Lucien Charles Dewavrin (Colonel Passy), soldier and resistance fighter: born Paris 9 June 1911; twice married (two sons, one daughter); died Paris 20 December 1998.

# Brian Lewis

BRIAN LEWIS, one of the most versatile performers in English League football throughout the decade and a half from 1960, played an integral part in an extraordinary feat of giant-killing which astounded the sporting world.

In February 1971, the effervescent utility man with the distinctive bow-legged gait was playing his trade on the right flank of humble Colchester United's attack when the Layer Road minnows played host to Don Revie's formidable Leeds United in the fifth round of the FA Cup. Though they were destined to finish the season trophyless, Leeds were, by common consent, the finest team in the land.

Meanwhile Colchester - dubbed "Grandad's Army" due to the preponderance of veterans in their ranks - were about midway in the Fourth Division. So one-sided did the contest appear that even the ritual pre-match tub-thumping about Davids overcoming Goliaths appeared more spurious than usual.

Cue sensation, with Lewis at its heart. Early in proceedings he laid on a goal for former England centre-forward Ray Crawford, then he continued to beaver inspirationally as Crawford added a second, and capped his contribution by delivering a sumptuous lob from which Dave Simmons gave the underdogs a 3-0 advantage. The Elland Road aristocrats clawed back to 3-2 but no further; Lewis, Crawford and company had achieved a soccer miracle.

Not that Lewis needed a one-off glory-day to cement his stature in the game. That was already evident from a career which had taken in Crystal Palace, where he had served in the League's lower reaches; Second Division Portsmouth, his dearest footballing love; Coventry City, for whom he was bought by Jimmy Hill and whom he helped to clinch the Second Division title in 1967; Luton Town (Third Division) and Oxford United (Second Division). Finally, after leaving Colchester, he returned to Pompey for an enterprising Indian summer.

Lewis occupied every outfield position, but was at his best as an attacking right-half who packed a savage shot, whose sweeping cross-field passes were a trademark, and who was vitally resilient in the tackle. A lovable scamp both on and off the pitch, he was feted by his supporters, especially at Portsmouth, for cheeky dribbles which lured opponents into rash tackles, thus securing free-kicks in menacing situations. Though his only taste of England's top flight was for one term in and out of the Coventry team, he appeared to have the requisite ability for that level.

In 1975 Lewis entered non-League circles with Hastings, then worked in the furniture trade while retaining his contact with the game as a successful youth coach. Passionate about his football - he named his only son after Duncan Edwards, the Manchester United prodigy who perished in the Munich air disaster - Brian Lewis retained his enthusiasm until the end, and was laid to rest wearing the shirt of his beloved Pompey.

IAN PONTING

Brian Lewis, footballer: born Woking, Surrey 26 January 1943; played for Crystal Palace 1960-63, Portsmouth 1963-67, Coventry City 1967-68, Luton Town 1968-70, Oxford United 1970, Colchester United 1970-72, Portsmouth 1972-75; married (one son; marriage dissolved); died Bournemouth, Dorset 14 December 1998.

# Elaine Wilkie

The diploma course in community health nursing which she launched led to the first UK degree in nursing



(Her two much older brothers became surgeons.)

IF HEALTH visitors broke the mould of nurse education by moving into universities, as Elaine Wilkie, the first director of the Council for the Education and Training of Health Visitors, considered, it was she who set them in the direction to do it.

Wilkie determined to get health visitor training out of the hands of medical officers, who were their employers. And she was emphatic that health visitors should first train first as nurses. She was a pioneering educationalist while herself suffering the continuing pain of rheumatoid arthritis and for much of the time also being a carer for her invalid mother.

Elaine Wilkie was born in Edinburgh in 1915 and went to George Watson's Ladies College. When she was 12 her father, a grain broker, died, leaving the family in straitened circumstances. With a nursing background on her mother's side, Wilkie chose to train as a nurse and to do so at King's College Hospital in London, rather than in Edinburgh.

After qualifying as a state registered nurse she trained as a midwife. She then took a health visitor's course at the Royal Sanitary Institute (later the Royal Society of Medicine). She served as a health visitor from 1941 to 1947 in Caterham, Surrey, where the large Guards depot

during the Second World War created social problems.

She left to run the health visitors' course at the Royal College of Nursing. While a full-time tutor, she took a BA in psychology at Birkbeck College, London. Always with a wide view of nurse education, in 1959 she was appointed organising tutor at the Department of Social and Pre-

ventive Medicine, Manchester University, under Professor Fraser Brockington. The diploma course in community health nursing - leading to a qualification as state registered nurse and health visitor - which she launched, developed into the first UK degree in nursing.

In her efforts to reshape the training of health visitors and protect their status, Wilkie had to battle with medical officers of health, with the Royal Sanitary Institute, and with the emerging profession of social workers. The last she experienced in her next posts - in 1962 as chief professional adviser to the new Council for the Training of Health Visitors, and when in 1971 this became the Council for the Education and Training of Health Visitors, as its director.

"There had always been a shadowy area of responsibility in the work of health visitors and social workers and a possible area of overlap," she wrote. "Over the years this has

been the cause of debate and, on occasion, dispute concerning their respective roles." It surfaced when the Social Work Council was set up in parallel with that for the education and training of health visitors.

Wilkie wrote a history of the latter in 1979. Though it bore all the marks of an official history, it hinted, mainly between the lines, at the difficulties she faced. "If you want style, madam, you must pay for it" is a shop assistant's remark which she uses to head one chapter.

There were no central funds for the council. In the early days Wilkie maintained a personal contact with the new training schools but soon she found the administrative content of her work precluded this and certainly any participation in any research, to which as an academic, she was inclined, was impossible. She was frustrated that it took 12 years for action on the 1956 Jameson report on health visiting. She wrote another book in 1984, *Singular Anomaly: A Case*

*Study of the Council for the Education and Training of Health Visitors.*

In 1975 Wilkie retired. She was appointed OBE, the Royal College of Nursing elected her a Fellow, she gained a doctorate at Edinburgh University - and the Briggs report on nursing made a recommendation underlining what she had sought to achieve. It said that health visitors could be trained in just six months.

Elaine Wilkie's hobby was music, including singing in church choirs, Church of England when in London, Church of Scotland when in Edinburgh. She was a committed Christian. All her life she retained her Scottish brogue and her love for the country she left to pursue her career, and on retirement she went back to live in Edinburgh.

LAURENCE DOPSON

Elizabeth Elaine Wilkie, nurse and educationalist: born Edinburgh 23 August 1915; OBE 1975; died Edinburgh 14 December 1998.

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Mr David Bailey, photographer, 61; Mr Nicholas Baring, chairman, Commercial Union, 65; Sir Richard Bayliss, former Physician to the Queen, 82; Mr Christopher Campbell, chairman, British Shipbuilders, 68; Admiral William J. Crowe, former US ambassador, 74; The Duke of Devonshire, former Chancellor of Manchester University, 79; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, former Director, Institute of Geological Sciences, 69; Mr David Graveney, cricketer, 45; Mr Walter Harrison, former MP, 78; Mr Algernon Heber-Percy, Lord-Lieutenant for Shropshire, 55; Sir Michael Hirst, former MP, 53; Mr Doug McAvoy, trade unionist, 60; Mr Piers Merchant MP, 46; Sir Bruce Patullo, Governor, the Bank of Scot-

land, 61; Sir Charles Reece, former research and technology director, ICI, 72; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, director, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 83; Air Marshal Sir Ernest Siddle, 86; Professor John Thomas, chemist, 73; Sir Keith Thomas, president, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 66; Dame Rachel Waterhouse, former chairman, Consumers' Association, 76; Sir Andrew Wood, ambassador to the Russian Federation, 58; The Right Rev Kenneth Woollcombe, Assistant Bishop, Worcester, 75.

TOMORROW: Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former President, National Savings Committee, 82; Mr David Atherton, music director, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, 55; Mr John Bamforth, former Principal, Linacre College, Oxford, 78;

Mr Michael Barratt, broadcaster, 71; Mr Victor Borge, musician and comedian, 90; Sir Robin Butler, former Secretary of the Cabinet, 61; Mr Fran Cotton, former rugby international, 51; Sir Alastair Forbes, former judge, 91; Mr Mel Gibson, actor, 43; Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, 74; Sir Roy Harding, educationist, 75; Lord Hughes of Woodside, former MP, 67; Mr John Paul Jones, rock musician and producer, 55; Admiral Sir Michael Layard, former Second Sea Lord, 63; Miss Anya Linden (Lady Sainsbury of Preston Candover), former ballerina, 68; Sir George Martin, chairman, AIR group, 72; Mr Eric Marlowe MP, 50; Sir Carol Mather, former MP, 80; Mr Matthew Taylor MP, 38; Mr John Thaw, actor, 57; Mr David Vine, BBC sports commentator, 63.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse

Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, hand provided by the Irish Guards.

TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse

Guards, 10am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, hand provided by the Irish Guards.

## From a salt desert to a Californian world

### FAITH & REASON

ANDREW BROWN

Ideas of spirituality have moved a long way since the last millennium. In the future, organised religion may well be unable to satisfy its needs

IN A year's time, the opening to this piece will write itself: "I told you so." The world will not have ended. This is of course an entirely safe bet to make, since, if I lose, who is to collect? But there are other possibly more important things to learn from an outbreak of millennial fever. Perhaps the most important is that very little of it will be religious in the sense that "religious" has been understood for the last thousand years.

In Rome, starting on Christmas Eve, the Pope will inaugurate the greatest continuous pilgrimage the world has ever seen. At least 25 million people will descend on the city over the following year, quite likely the figure will be closer to 35 million. Fifteen new churches are being built in the suburbs.

It looks as if Christendom is in great shape. Certainly, the experience of reading the Pope's meditations on the Jubilee, as he calls the Millennium in his encyclical *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, is enough to show that there still are Christian philosophers and intellectuals around who should be taken seriously, despite appearances to the contrary in Britain. Yet I still have a sense that this triumph may be illusory: that the last millennium found the Church on a flood tide, and this finds the same Church on an ebb. The splendours of Roman Christianity, which are in large parts those of European Christendom, are now largely architectural.

The buildings remain, but the people are gone or going fast. There is a Jubilee every 25 years, and the num-

ber of pilgrims coming to Rome has tripled every time since 1950. But no one could argue that this is a development largely driven by spiritual causes. The gigantic and unprecedented tide of pilgrims into Rome is a product of cheap air travel and mass tourism, not of the fervour of their belief.

This has not been accompanied by any great increase in rationality or sophistication. Quite possibly the collapse of traditional religion has not increased even those measures of human happiness which an atheist would recognise. It certainly doesn't seem to me to have led to any greater respect for the truth. And it is possible to draw some huge and gloomy conclusions from the process, about how the world will necessarily get worse as a result.

Most of the atrocities of this century were committed by avowed atheists or anti-Christians, in Russia as in Nazi Germany. The Serbs and Croats, of course, regard themselves as fighting for Christian civilisation, even against each other. But on balance, any fair-minded observer would conclude that atheists have brought more misery to the planet than the devout.

It's easy to follow that argument in a direction that says that without religion we have no hope. Many elegant conservatives, from Matthew Arnold to Roger Scruton, have concluded just this without being exactly Christian themselves. I hope they're wrong for a couple of reasons.

The first is that they are in essence claiming that our only hope is to believe something repugnant to reason. This seems to me to lose the most noble legacy of Christianity: the assertion that humanity and truth are despite all the evidence compatible. It is also open to the elegant mockery of Christians like Libby Purves, who remarked of Scruton's pessimism that he was the first man to argue that we should throw out the baby and keep the bath water.

The second reason is that I don't think people will happily and consciously believe things they know to be false. We're just not built that way. It may not be nobility of character. It may simply be that we suspect the truth will give us an edge in dealing with each other. But in any case, the idea that we should believe things because they are good for use doesn't work outside Alcoholics Anonymous, which is extremely vague about what exactly these beliefs should be.

I think it's more interesting to twist

the elegant conservative argument through 90 degrees. Religions, as we know them, are really modelled on Christendom. But Christendom does not describe a mode of thought or even a set of beliefs, so much as a way of understanding and arranging society. It fulfilled a great many lasting human needs that have no obvious organisational connection to spirituality.

This disconnection became apparent first intellectually when people learnt that you could best discover all sorts of truths, philosophical, historical and scientific, without reference to religious authority. In this century it has become obvious socially, as more and more of the special functions of religion are taken over by the welfare state, and to some extent by the mass media.

The one irreplaceable function which seems to remain to them is to link an awareness of the transcendent into some kind of workable moral code. So we tend to think that this is the essence of religion. But it's not clear that religions, considered as social arrangements, can have an essence at all.

If our ideas of religion descend from the Old Testament world of the tribe in a salt and bitter desert, clinging mostly to God and always to each other, they may not survive at all of their version into a Californian world of huge material comfort and no real social bonds at all. The lasting human needs that give rise to what we now call religious belief will remain, but there's no reason to suppose that religions themselves will.



## ARTS &amp; BOOKS

## Here comes the crazy man

Screamin' Jay Hawkins, alive and well and holed up in a chic Paris suburb. Now *that's* voodoo. By Phillip Sweeney

In the western suburbs of Paris, by the Bois de Boulogne, the Seine contains a thin strip of expensive real estate, the Ile de la Jatte. Famously painted by Seurat last century, the island today harbours big white blocks of flats, the offices of Yves Saint Laurent, and a riverside supper club: the Maxwell Café, formerly known as the Quai du Blues. Through the open stage door comes the sound of a mellifluous but irritated Ohio baritone. "That air's mah shit. That's Vacher's shit. Where's mah shit?" And an answering voice, Parisian and perplexed: "Er, je ne sais pas, mais c'est le papier à cul musqué."

Inside, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, in bronze silk suit and snakeskin boots, is rooting around in a crated toilet bowl, watched by a workman who holds out placatingly a roll of toilet paper printed with staves of music. We go up to the bar to sit down. Jay lights a Pall Mall ("a bad habit I picked up during the Korean war") and explains. The toilet is his prop for the song "Constipation Blues". "After a long, agonising, almost 15 minutes of that song I reach in and show the audience I did manage to produce something" - but the Café's proprietor, Gerard Vacher, has replaced the usual correct plastic piece of excrement with a French joke one, which will not do.

A lapse of standards is something Jay is not about to tolerate, as his French musicians have learnt. "I still get 'em back in the daytime and work 'em hard and they say, 'Oh do we have to?' And I says yeah - you play 'Tea for Two', rollerskatin' music, dyn' music, Dixieland jazz... the people gotta be happy with it."

Evidently the people are happy, if the continual full houses of the Paris residency are anything to go by. To much of the world, Screamin' Jay Hawkins is a name from the golden age of rock and roll, author of the glorious single "I Put a Spell On You" in 1956 and subsequently forgotten. The more culturally alert will be aware of Hawkins, now aged almost 70, as a cult-film cameo actor for the likes of Jim Jarmusch, Wayne Wang, Chester Himes and Harvey Keitel. For the inhabitants of Levallois-Perret, a genteel and nondescript suburb across the river from the Ile de la Jatte, Hawkins has been a neighbour for the last six years, buying his Pall Malls at the tabac, and popping into the Café Le Limousin for a soft drink and



"I find I can make people react more quickly if I walk on with a skull and snakes": stagecraft à la Jay Hawkins

Rediffers

a workout for his half-dozen words of French.

Three or four times a month, Jay drives over to the Maxwell Café, where twice a night, a hundred punters sit down to piece de boeuf, sauce roquefort in the red plush interior. On the small stage Screamin' Jay regales them with 90 minutes of howling, snarling, windbreaking, scatological, scat-singing blues vaudeville of his classics, and a host of newly written numbers such as "Pot Luck" ("crocodile bladders and gum... French fried baboon lips... bring on the knees and make all the gals say please... pot luck has struck!"). Meanwhile the toilet makes way for coffins, skulls, cannibal outfits, smoke bombs and much more. "I find I can make

people react more quickly if I walk on with a skull and snakes... I see smiles on their faces and they're clapping and sayin' here come the crazy man and I know it's gonna be alright."

Canniness runs like a seam through Hawkins' conversation, which is a chat-show hosts' dream, unstopable, indiscreet, packed with anecdote and, against all the odds, apparently based on truth.

Where did he get the idea for the cannibal nose-bone? In the Philippines, where he lived in the 1960s working US Army nightclubs, marrying his second wife and exercising anthropological curiosity. "You remember the Moro tribe? In World War Two motion pictures the Japanese hate to fall into the hands of the

Moros cos they got these big ban-shoo knives and they dice the Japanese up like little pieces o' carrot. Well, they says to me Jay Hawkins, you strange, you sure you ain't a witch doctor? I says thank you very much, that's a compliment. They says no, we mean you're wicked and evil... you come on stage with skeletons hanging from your ears and fire from your hands. I says this is normal, you gotta have something different to get people payin' to come into a nightclub..."

The Filipino interlude occurs midway through Jay's Hawkins' life, which began "black, naked and ugly" and one of eight kids, "all bastards", in 1929 in Cleveland. At age one and a half Jay was fostered with a tribe of Blackfoot Indians, rich

ones with houses in the city, who "raised me real good and taught me the value of a dollar". Hawkins joined the Army aged 14, fought in the Pacific, took up boxing and finished the 1940s Middleweight Champion of Alaska.

In the early 1950s he decided to use his dramatic voice and newly acquired piano and saxophone skills. His break came via the patronage of a New York blues singer named Wynonie Harris - "the most stinkin' crooked criminal black man in the whole of show business. He shoulda married Dinah Washington, the only woman like him" - who got Hawkins a residence in the Baby Grand Club in Harlem. In late 1956 Hawkins recorded for the second time his ballad "I Put a Spell On

You", a "pretty version" of which had flopped earlier. This time the studio was full of pork chops, greens and booze, more like a party, and Jay first applied his demented embellishment of vocal effects from jungle and lavatory. The result was banned by many radio stations but still sold a million copies. "Spell" assured both Jay's position in pop music history and a steady royalties income, which he still uses to import for himself Campbell's soup and razors, and passes on in hand-outs to any of the "25 to 75" children he's sired who still speak to him.

"Spell" also endowed Hawkins with an internationally marketable name. "I joined all the screen guilds and performing-rights societies and stuff like that to get in with the right crowd in different countries." Four decades of roaming ensued. In 1985 he began visits to the L'Hotel Hampton room at the Meridien Hotel in Paris, and thus joined the ranks of American blues and gospel artists better known in France than at home. In 1993, accompanied by eight trunks of his finest clothes, he moved permanently to Paris; three years later he was living in Levallois, married to his second French wife and the father of a new baby. Improbably, petit bourgeois French life suits him perfectly. "Marlon Brando found his paradise on a South Sea island - I found mine in Levallois-Perret."

Last year, Hawkins made a new record, *Last Call*, for a French independent. A very good one, though he currently denies it, complaining about the addition of organ to the final edit and the company's insistence he include a version of "I Shot the Sheriff". Actually the track is great fun, transforming the self-righteous Rasta narrator of the Marley version into a rip-snorting psychopath that the author of *Silence of the Lambs* would have killed, as it were, to create.

Busy falling out, and back in, with collaborators, Jay can't plan too far ahead. There's a new Jim Jarmusch movie about his life, soon to be released, and an album of operatic arias planned. The Maxwell Café, says Jay, asked him to extend his contract but he's keeping his options open. One thing's for sure, he wants to die on stage, like the pianist Ernie Blake. Maybe you'll be the first person in history to die on the toilet on stage, I suggest. "Wooh!" says Screamin' Jay. "That'd be beautiful!"

## In the eye of a storm

## POP

DELORES AND SEAN KEANE  
MOUNT ERRICLE HOTEL  
LETTERKENNY  
DONEGAL, EIRE

IT'S SURPRISING to realise that it has only been during the past 15 years or so that the likes of Christy Moore, Paul Brady and Mary Black have established a world market for a brand of easy-listening pop music firmly rooted in the Irish tradition but almost exclusively fuelled by songwriting, home-grown or bought in, in a pre-hat act American country vein. Hard to define more concisely but almost a genre in its own right.

Braving the storm-force winds and risking (successfully) an intermittent electricity supply, Dolores Keane, one of the longest-established stars of the scene, and her younger brother Sean, one of the fastest rising, were rewarded with a more than healthy turnout and a rapturous reception - from an audience demographic that major labels in Britain would simply never dream of. If the showband era of the Sixties has bequeathed to the world the blue-rinse pap of Daniel O'Donnell and his cronies, it has perhaps redeemed itself in fostering a community of social experience with live music and a healthy belief that singers and songwriters don't necessarily have to be the same people. In the case of Dolores and Sean, they may never find themselves in the running for a Mercury Music prize but they are quite simply great singers with great songs - and that is a quality that should never be taken for granted or undervalued.

Touring for the first time together, the show took the form of two separate sets from each artist and their regular bands, with a smattering of duets and swapping of personnel - indeed the mercurial and rock-solid Ted Parsons deserves a mention in despatches for saving the cost of two rhythm guitarists and seemingly memorising two acts' entire repertoire with consummate cool. For this was no scripted show. Sean, at least, never sings the same set two night's running and that, together with an unusually dynamic band - Parsons on rhythm, Michael McGinly on string bass and Robbie Ovenson powerhousing away on Townshendish lead guitar - adds edge to what will always be a naturally gifted vocal performance.

Some of the duets were more compelling than others, but when the match succeeded, as on Kieran Halpin's strident, dramatic "Like Sister, Like Brother" - allowing Dolores's windswept, husky and declaratory style and Sean's higher, more lonesome tones to make something greater than the sum of the parts - it was a triumph. Promoting her *Greatest Hits* Collection, Dolores delivered essentially that with typical good humour. But the reception for Sean's set was extraordinary, and with the appearance of effortless control - an eye of serenity in the midst of his band's storm - he moved the whole show up a gear. Emigration, peace and love gone wrong are themes that dominate Dolores' material but while Sean explores similar paths, he casts a much wider net. Three albums in, he's one of the great Irish discoveries of the Nineties.

COLIN HARPER

## THE WEEK IN RADIO



MAGNUS MILLS

IN FRANK Skinner's view, the saxophone break during Bill Haley's "Rock Around the Clock" is far too "white and clinical", sounding like someone stuck in a traffic jam. The tone is nowhere near "dirty" enough for him, and so on Monday night he offered a few juicy alternatives. In the *Days Before Rock'n'Roll* (Radio 2) was a look through some records made prior to 1955, featuring the sort of music played inside smoky basement clubs where Haley's "canary-yellow jacket and silly kiss-curl" would be a positive bar to entry. In the first of a series of four programmes, Frank showed the influence of blues men on the development of rock and roll as a genre. Always giving the

greatest reverence to the sleaziest sounds, he played Big Mama Thornton's "Hound Dog", Amos Milburn's "Down the Road a Piece", and Jackie Brenston's R&B classic "Rocket 88".

According to Sun Records, this last one, from 1950, was the first ever rock and roll song. Well, maybe so, but there were a lot of other musical innovations flying around at the same time. As Fats Domino, like Turner, Roy Brown and Chuck Berry all made their presence felt.

Britain's Lonnie Donegan played a part too, because it was one of his performances that initially inspired Buddy Holly to pick up a guitar. The original "Rock Island Line" was sung by Lead Belly, but it was Lonnie's

skiffle version (recorded in 1964) that got through to the American mainstream and became a massive hit, in spite of his rather dodgy "Gone with the Wind" vocal tones.

The vocal tones of Ray Galton and Alan Simpson were much easier to place. South London to be exact. In *Hancock and Son* (Radio 4, Tuesday), Harry Thompson talked to them about their writing partnership, now almost half-a-century old, and in particular, about how *Hancock's Half Hour* had become the first ever situation comedy.

Apparently they met in a TB sanatorium, where they passed four years testing comic scripts on one another. Perhaps by accident, perhaps not, the

position of the interview microphone made them sound as if they were still there. Simpson actually seemed to be speaking from some kind of waiting room, his voice echoing on bare painted walls and tiled floors, while in the meantime Galton hovered near the doorway. This gave the two of them a certain aloofness, quite appropriate to their status as writers rather than performers of comedy. Without having to worry about acting ("That was Hancock's job") they could concentrate on getting the scripts perfect. Between extracts from "The Blood Donor" and "The Radio Ham", we heard how Simpson was "in charge of" the typewriter, editing the ideas they

bounced off each other as Galton paced around the room, occasionally rushing over to make sure nothing of his was being thrown out. The resulting comedy was what you get when two men are shut in a room together for two decades, namely, an obsession with detail. They worked for hours to make sure the syntax was right. "One too many syllables in a line can render it unfunny," explained Alan Simpson. So it was that they rejected "just about an armful" of blood and even "nearly an armful", not satisfied until they finally arrived at "very nearly an armful" which was, of course, more precise. Any aspiring comedy writer would have done well to listen.

Some of the duets were more compelling than others, but when the match succeeded, as on Kieran Halpin's strident, dramatic "Like Sister, Like Brother" - allowing Dolores's windswept, husky and declaratory style and Sean's higher, more lonesome tones to make something greater than the sum of the parts - it was a triumph. Promoting her *Greatest Hits* Collection, Dolores delivered essentially that with typical good humour. But the reception for Sean's set was extraordinary, and with the appearance of effortless control - an eye of serenity in the midst of his band's storm - he moved the whole show up a gear. Emigration, peace and love gone wrong are themes that dominate Dolores' material but while Sean explores similar paths, he casts a much wider net. Three albums in, he's one of the great Irish discoveries of the Nineties.

COLIN HARPER

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## And I'll cry if I want to...

IN CHOOSING their Christmas

film this year, New Yorkers

went for a new kind of escapism.

*HurlyBurly*, released

on Christmas Day, garnered big

box-office receipts in Manhattan.

It stood out amid holiday

films about kindly doctors,

snowmen and good step-

mothers: a bleary-eyed Meg

Ryan, an exotic dancer,

screaches. Sean Penn, playing

a casting director, sohs,

screams and undresses, chain-

smokes, and snorts obscene

amounts of cocaine. Garry

Shandling shuffles around, eye-

brows waver, pinking

young girls to his friends.

Mark Ordesky, president of

*HurlyBurly's* distributor, Fine

Line, called the Christmas

release of *HurlyBurly* "counter

programming" against more

traditional Christmas movie

fare, following the success of

last year's Christmas release,

Jockie Brown. New Yorkers

NEW YORK  
DIARY

ALISSA QUART

might spend Christmas with hundreds of people - without going to Midnight Mass. (On this year's Christmas Eve, you could catch a show entitled *Hustle New Wave* and eat some fake duck.)

*HurlyBurly's* action is as drug-induced, superficial and unhappy as any fashionable New Year's party. For weeks before the New Year, Manhattanites competed over invitations, then feigned indifference at the events themselves.

With its glimpse into yesterday's debauchery, *HurlyBurly* echoes both Manhattan's invitation-only pre-late



Sean Penn and Meg Ryan, the stars of 'HurlyBurly'



UPPA

frenzy and the blasé ennui at the actual party. Sean Penn exemplifies both these modes. The object of Hollywood's desire, ketchy in *The New York Times Magazine* profile, calling Hollywood stars mere "performers" and hanging around them to be sometimes "just excruciating". In the article, Penn is made into Hollywood's Christ-figure. He threatens to quit acting, while Jack Nicholson and a host of other Hollywood hotshots toast "genius" Penn, who is suffering for the sins of Tinseltown's money-mad performers.

The \$4m ensemble piece, along with *Pleasantville* and *The Truman Show*, makes the mistake of confusing show-business unhappiness in particular with human unhappiness in general. It's part of 1998's larger filmic trend - Deep Hollywood. With DH films like *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Thin Red Line*, stars can't say enough how the particular director or actor had so much tacturn "aura".

This year, American entertainment magazines ran stories of film ad campaigns, box office, and studio firings and hirings, instead of the mags' breathless fans notes of yore. While *HurlyBurly's* makers claim that it is not a movie about Hollywood per se, Ordesky says: "*HurlyBurly* is about what Hollywood can do to the human mind, the soul, and the personality."

If you were part of New York's Elect you wouldn't have to go to the movies to watch the return of 1980s-style decadent parties. You would be at writer Bret Easton Ellis's party, waiting for him to leave his own do, watching his teenage guests cavort and women in short Santa skirts serve drinks. And then, like Sean Penn, after trying to be invited to the party, you would rant against it.



THE BOOKS INTERVIEW

# Having some fun with dysfunction

Michel Houellebecq, the mischief-making *enfant terrible* of new-wave French fiction, talks to Helen Stevenson

**B**efore a Francophone audience at the French Institute, prior to the British publication of his first novel, Michel Houellebecq is happy to speak in English. Partly, he suspects, this is because he is bored by the sound of the same old answers in French; partly, because he knows that it is mildly irritating. Ruminative pauses punctuate his speech like clouds. *Vision du monde?* he asks, casting around for a prompt. Vision of the world? asks the translator, clashing with a chorus of "world view" from the English to his left. "Ah, world view," he agrees, smiling slightly. "I am simply expressing my world view."

Houellebecq's first novel, *Whatever* (translated by Paul Hammond, Serpent's Tail, £5.99), is a short book narrated by a Parisian computer programmer. His vision of the world is not a pretty one. The narrator and his colleague, Tisserand, are France teaching people to use *Eclypse* software. Tisserand is 26 and single. His frustration contrasts with the narrator's apparent indifference to sex, acquisition or success. Eventually, the narrator offers Tisserand a knife and suggests he go and kill a couple making out on the beach. "Launch yourself on a career of murder. Get the hang of it in a young nigger!"

In some ways, it's nothing new. People are alienated. The world is filthy and sour, there is no love any more, we are all scared, isolated, lonely and bitter. We may be economically comfortable - those with jobs in computers, at least - but we're ill-educated, intellectualised in the wrong way, unfit and unlikely to cope. The novel's end-of-the-Eighties France is visibly Americanised. The Americans are completely stupid," Houellebecq says, sounding like the *Roi Soleil*. "The intellectual level in any single European country is higher than in America."

The French title was *Extension du domaine de la lutte*, expressing Houellebecq's view that the sexual evolution of the Sixties had nothing to do with the creation of communism in the sexual realm. Rather, it had everything to do with a free sexual market. In which you had to be able to score and survive.

I ask him later if it was called *Whatever* in English as the result of clerical error - whether someone said "what shall we call it in English?" and "Oh, whatever!" got slung down in the minutes. His publisher says that "with this jacket and this title, it could almost be an American novel". Houellebecq laughs acidly.

It's not ironic that someone who so despises the consumerism of the late 20th century should have sold over 500,000 copies of his first two novels. It is part of the critique, and Houellebecq is delighted by his success. At the same time, he is currently one of the most reviled men in France, as well as the most feted: the leader of a "new generation" of young, politically disengaged writers who are depressed, humorous, watch television, and wander in cyber and porno-space.

They are the first generation of French writers to represent the physical world as we have known it here for a long time, complete with answerphones, computers, supermarkets and discotheques. No one sits round in cafés discussing the meaning of life. Life has moved on and has left its meaning, and those who sought it, far behind. But in a recent issue of *Granta*, Houellebecq refutes the claim that what these writers have in common is a concern for action rather than thought. "It's not true," he says. "That's not me at



## MICHEL HOUELLEBECQ, A BIOGRAPHY

Michel Houellebecq was born in 1958 in La Réunion. His mother was a "sexually liberated" anaesthetist; his father a mountain guide. He was brought up in the Yonne region of France by his

grandfather. He studied agronomy and became a programmer at the Assemblée Nationale. After a divorce and severe depression, he spent time in a psychiatric hospital. In the early Nineties, he

published an essay on HP Lovecraft and two collections of poems. His first novel *Extension du domaine de la lutte* (*Whatever*) appeared in 1995, and *Les Particules Elementaires* in 1998.

The hostility of the audience at the French Institute seems slightly prefabricated. Many people came here prepared to be hostile to a man who has stuck literary knuckle-dusters into the face of political correctness. In the French newspapers, *L'Affaire Houellebecq* has claimed almost as many column inches as *L'Affaire Lewinsky*. Already people felt uncomfortable with aspects of the first novel - its gross anti-feminism, a taint of racist language that did not seem to be entirely the narrator's own, the feeling of unease about this so-called "justification". But it was his second novel that created uproar; hence this audience is half sycophantic, half hostile. "It is very dangerous," he says of *Les Particules Elementaires* (Flam-

marion, 105FF), slowly spinning a glass of house white as we sit in the French Institute café. (He is unfussy about wine and says that, after a few years of work, people get less interested in sex and substitute for it clarets and gastronomie.) Dangerous for whom? Is he about to discourse on the narrow ledge a writer must walk between provocation and responsibility? "For me," he says forlornly. "People were extremely hostile."

*Les Particules Elementaires* will be published in England next year. It is a brilliant, horrifying, pornographic, very funny, sociological survey of the last 30 years, and a total condemnation of the 1968 generation. Houellebecq claims to have been surprised by the outrage it caused among the 68ers themselves. "I honestly thought they were all dead," he says. He was 10 in 1968. As a blueprint for happiness in the 21st century, it proposes the creation by cloning of an auto-reproducing species very similar to humans. They would be immortal, not therefore in sexual competition for survival, and free of suffering, envy, cruelty and vanity. It has been read particularly closely for its descriptions of Swedish-style orgies. (The graphic detail lends a certain piquancy to Houellebecq's presence in the flesh.)

There has been far less debate in France over the substance of his views on eugenics than over whether they justified his being banned from a group of intellectuals called Perpendicular. Perhaps on its publication in England, the novel will provoke a serious discussion of the issues. Houellebecq's claim that it is simply science fiction is so disingenuous as to be arch.

And yet *Les Particules Elementaires* - justifiably, one might argue - is now being described as the most important novel of the end of the millennium. "I know the classic objections - but it seems to me that the advantages to be gained from acting to modify the genetic code far outweigh any objections." Pinned down, he can always say it's only fiction; and science fiction at that. Nevertheless, it is a fiction based on his own *vision du monde*.

Houellebecq is off to Cuba with his new wife. He will rest a bit, maybe do some reading. "I prefer reading to writing," he says, grinning over the front page of a newspaper I show him, announcing the bombing of Iraq. "Reading changes your world view. Writing changes absolutely nothing. Except, of course, when it makes you rich."

# Infinite riches from the lost subcontinent

Pankaj Mishra argues that the nuclear bomb-wielding India of today has forgotten the subtle glories of ancient Hindu and Buddhist thought

EARLY IN Ka, Roberto Calasso's elegant compendium of classical Indian myths and legends, there occurs one of those sentences that makes you wonder about the book's title in English: "We are devotees of the distinct and the ritulate, but the infinite sters in our bones."

It probably does. But the infinite, with which Indian religion and philosophy is obsessed, as it had a good press in commonsense-loving England, his is why the discovery of India's classical past in the 19th century had almost no effect on English literature and philosophy, whereas it was

seized upon with delight by the German Romantics. Their enthusiasm was inherited by Goethe, Schopenhauer and even Thomas Mann, who based a charming short story, "The Transposed Heads", on an idea drawn from the *Upanishads*.

Not that German and French ideas of India were always on target. Most of Schopenhauer's notions of India look half-baked in retrospect; and Nietzsche, who had an Indologist as a personal friend, still managed to make Indian philosophy sound quite like his own. Accuracy wasn't really the point. Classical India was a useful stick to lay one's own civilisation; it showed up the mediocrity and soullessness of the times.

A similar sort of aristocratic contempt for the modern age is evident in Ka, despite Calasso's declared intention to present "the Indianness of the mind of India, but in an Indian way". You may have reservations about this attitude. The first few

pages, for instance, are not easy going - not even for the very competent translator, Tim Parks, who recently wrote at length in the *LRB* about his first, bewildering encounter with Sanskrit abstractions.

Then the stories, so packed with meaning, proliferate too fast; and they often assume knowledge of other stories. Even a much longer book would be hard pressed to accommodate such a digressive form as classical Indian literature. Calasso stays out of the narrative frame, preferring to place the stories - taken from the Vedas, the Puranas, the Brahmanas, the *Mahabharata*, and Buddhist texts - in a kind of history of Indian thought.

His two preoccupations are easy to identify. In *The Ruins of Kasch*, he discussed the value of sacrifice in pre-modern societies. In Ka, there is a chapter on Asvamedha, the horse sacrifice conducted by ambitious kings, the last sim-



**Ka**  
by Roberto Calasso,  
translated by Tim Parks  
Cape, £16.99, 464pp

ter stages of which involve copulation between the dead horse and the first wife of the king. Calasso is also concerned with the nature of consciousness, with "the recognition that the existence of the universe is a secondary and derivative fact with respect to the existence of the mind". This sounds unfair-

ly abstract because his achievement lies in making these stories yield a larger sense of the way things are; he creates through them a cosmic drama in which we glimpse a bigger meaning behind everyday life.

Consider this moment, close to the beginning of the world, when Parvati - consort of Shiva, the dark god of paradox - magnificently curses Shiva's compatriots, the clean-cut gods who live up in the sky and present themselves as the paragons of goodness. "You are old," she says, "and the world is impatient to be rid of you. Up there, where you live, there will be nothing but emptiness, and that emptiness will enchant men even more than you have enchanted them. Only Shiva shall be motionless, pervasive, intact, as he ever has been." Certainly, the dark god of paradox has had a longer run in human history, where goodness remains for most men an empty, if enchanting, promise.

Calasso's retelling of major stories from the *Mahabharata* wonderfully evokes the great melancholy that lies at the heart of this epic, and highlights its overarching theme: the corrosions of Time, Kala.

In common with most Hindus, Calasso considers the Buddha an incarnation of the Hindu godhead, Vishnu. This would annoy those Indian Buddhists who have worked hard to extricate the Buddha from the all-devouring Hindu pantheon. His account of the Buddha, although sympathetic, is coloured by his preference for the pre-Buddhist, Aryan past.

He attributes the beginnings of intellectual modernity to the Buddha's habit of "seeing things as so many aggregates and dismantling them"; and of "seeing the world as a landscape of interlocking cogs". An odd perception - but its truth was recognised by the great French structuralist Claude Lévi-Strauss, whose *Tristes*

*Tropiques* concludes with a moving tribute to the Buddha. There is something entrancing about such coherent sensibilities as Calasso and Lévi-Strauss holding a conversation with the older cultures of India. In both cases, you can witness a curiosity and freshness that is rare in our multiculturalist times, where on one side soundbite journalism and unreadable academicese masquerade as knowledge; and on the other, a simple-minded assertion of ethnic identity steadily dispenses with the need to know, in any depth, one's own or other people's cultures.

A greater irony is that no contemporary Indian writer would be able to match such erudition and originality as Calasso displays in Ka. This raises the awkward question: how much of the "Indianness" of the mind of the India" exists now? The civilisation that has come to India in the past 200 years is a hybrid offshoot of the

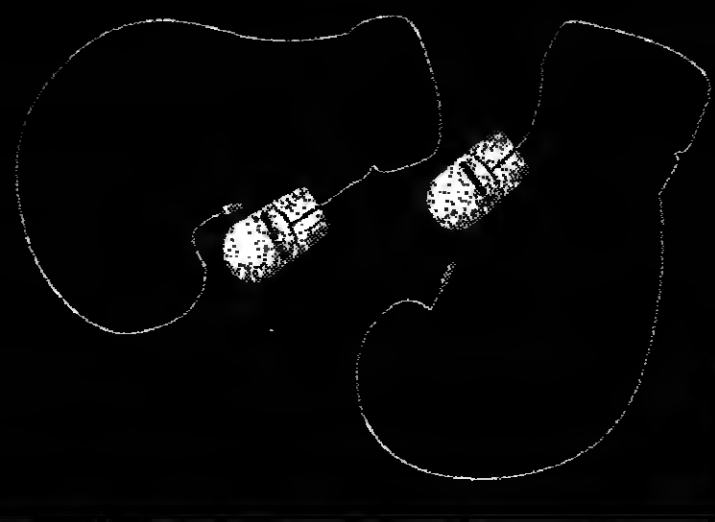
Enlightenment in Western Europe. Since Independence, Indian talents have mostly gone into adapting - quite successfully - to powerful new ideas in the arts and sciences coming out of Europe and America. Strange as it may seem, Indian writing in English and nuclear bombs are aspects of the same ambiguous achievement.

As for Indian philosophy, it has petered out in dry academic exegeses. To speak of the continuity of an essentially "Indian" India is to speak primarily of practices and rituals that have survived among the poor and the pre-literate. India's more glorious past remains another country, even to those middle-class Hindu nationalists who routinely invoke it to underline the damage wrought by Islam and colonialism. It is to this sad neglect that Calasso's book offers a generous antidote.

Pankaj Mishra is a writer based in New Delhi and Simla

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## COUNTRY &amp; GARDEN

## Look back in anger – and joy

## COUNTRY MATTERS

DUFF  
HART-DAVIS

Assessing the past 12 months is generally an agreeable exercise; but I suspect that for many country folk 1998 was a year they would rather forget. Farmers saw prices fall below subsistence levels; landowners felt threatened by the proposed right to roam; and small communities everywhere were dismayed at the prospect of being buried under landslides of new housing estates.

Undoubtedly the most memorable day of the year was Sunday, 1 March, when nearly 300,000 people swarmed into London to walk from the Embankment to the Serpentine. It was a brave and brilliant morning, with a few high clouds sailing on the breeze, and the weather exactly matched the mood of the marchers, who were exhilarated to find that such huge numbers had turned out in defence of rural freedoms.

As at the Hyde Park rally of July 1997, the most striking feature of the country crowd was its good behaviour. The revolting peasants were clean, orderly, cheerful and civilised; and in the words of one Highland deer-stalker: "The extraordinary thing was that they all looked like human beings."

Yet their high spirits on the day concealed many deep worries. It is true that the spark that originally fired the mass protest was the attempt to ban fox hunting; but by last spring anxieties were building up on a much wider front, and in the nine months since the great march none of the worries has been allayed.

Indeed, one of the most depressing features of the debate on the future of the countryside is that facts appear to have had little impact. While Michael Foster, the MP for Worcester, was campaigning for his Private Member's Bill to abolish



Memories of 1998: one of 8,000 beacons lit across the country in support of the countryside marches

Dove Cheskin/PA

hunting with hounds, every serious newspaper carried well-reasoned articles in favour of fox hunting, arguing that the activity was beneficial to conservation. Yet this surge of favourable publicity had absolutely no effect on the House of Commons, where the Bill won an enormous majority in favour – and it would have gone through, had it not been blocked by filibustering.

Similarly, when it comes to new houses, private research commissioned by numerous rural communities has shown that Government figures of alleged need are often grossly exaggerated. Yet few, if any, local councils pay the slightest heed to any accurate information brought to light. Instead, driven by the demands of developers and by the enormous prices that are paid for building land, they blunder on, burying more and more green land under bricks, mortar and concrete.

There is no doubt that a large majority of the population as a whole disapproves of hunting, and would not mind if it disappeared. This majority is a natural consequence of the fact that, compared with urban numbers, the rural population is tiny. However, the question now surely ought to be one of tolerance: why should townspeople, who have no understanding of – or feel for – the country, impose their views on the minority who live there?

Not only is the rural population small: the number of people working on the land continues to fall. And although newcomers are constantly moving to live in villages, or taking over redundant farmhouses and converted barns, they have no roots or involvement in the countryside.

In August, when I judged the best-kept small village in Gloucestershire to be Cherington, near Tetbury, I remarked in my report that I found it

hard to imagine what the inhabitants did, so immaculate was the setting, with not a stone or lump of earth or blade of grass out of place among the parked Jaguars and BMWs.

Later, when we distributed the awards, a woman came up to me with a slightly self-righteous air and a whole list of professions which the village could boast – accountant, architect, solicitor and so on. Apart from a single farmer, not one of them had anything to do with the land.

Another stirring memory is of the beacon bonfire we lit to herald the London march. The fire – which I myself had built – burned furiously, and we were bolstered by the knowledge that we were joining in a nation-wide demonstration – nearly 8,000 beacons flared up that evening.

Deeper feelings, however, were aroused by the fact that our site was on the rampart of an Iron-age fort, and by the knowledge that more than

100 generations of our predecessors had used the place for their own purposes in times long gone. When dusky figures loomed up over the earthworks, as people climbed from the village to join the party, I sensed many a ghostly presence watching from the dark.

Among other cheerful developments, our three alpacas, shorn for the first time, produced a mountain of wool which my wife is spinning and knitting into the softest, lightest jerseys imaginable.

Meanwhile, Jenima – now 10 months old – has grown into a splendid-looking Labrador, and has inherited her mother's penchant for trying to pick up two or three different toys simultaneously. Our new priest-in-charge has proved an immediate success, and our refurbished kitchen, though weeks behind schedule, is going to be a joy. Best of all, the coppice merchant,

Bodger White, continues to inhabit his camp in the high woods, in defiance of Stroud District Council's attempts to evict him, pouring scorn on professional conservationists and championing the merits of work on the woodland floor.

When I walked out to offer him a seasonal bottle on Boxing Day, wild storms were roaring in from the Bristol Channel, but his stove was glowing cherry-red, and I felt reassured that one pillar of rural tradition, at least, is still very much in place.

But I am still haunted by thoughts of the man who tried to commit suicide in the wood above the farm. His sister who came to take his car away, promised to let me know how he was faring, but she never has. Did the huge overdose of pills damage his brain or liver? Is he alive? And if he is, does he resent the fact that I pulled him back from the brink?

## NATURE NOTES

A FOUR-YEAR survey by the Mammal Society has exposed a "worrying decline" in the abundance of field voles and common shrews. The data was obtained by analysing the pellets of fur and bone regurgitated by barn owls. The remains of over 50,000 small mammals were examined by volunteers, and the conclusion reached was that since the Seventies owls have largely gone off voles and switched from common shrews to the smaller pygmy shrews.



Experts point out that the owls would only go for smaller targets out of necessity: the relative scarcity of common shrew and field vole remains in the pellets shows that the two species must have gone downhill.

The decline of voles is attributed largely to the diminution of rough grassland, in which they thrive. The British population is still thought to be about 75 million, but the Mammal Society believes that the number is too small, and that any further fall will have serious effects on the survival of the predators – kestrels and weasels beside barn owls – which live on them. The society is therefore launching new research to develop techniques for monitoring further population changes.

Voies might have better survival rates if they could learn to make less noise. As it is, the squeaking and chattering of territorial disputes betray their presence to owls, which hunt with ears as well as eyes.

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Zinnia 'Allsorts' - self-evidently foreign and outrageously exotic

Archie Young/A-Z Botanical

# The seeds of triumph

Cheerful nasturtiums, unruly snapdragons, exotic zinnias ... Anna Pavord plans ahead for summer flowers

**Z**innias were the triumph of our garden last year. It was a year when we needed the occasional triumph, so thank you, zinnias. I had not grown them before. They are such outrageous flowers, so self-evidently foreign and exotic. I automatically assumed that they must be difficult. But no. I sowed seed of zinnia 'Allsorts' (Mr Fothergill, £1.10) on 15 March and four days later they had germinated.

That took me by surprise. And it also created a small worry. The one thing I had heard about zinnias was that they hate to be checked. Once started into growth, they like to zoom helter-skelter onwards. However, they also hate frost. I took a risk in setting them out at the beginning of May, but I got away with it. This year, I shall sow a little later, so that the plants need not be set outside until mid-May.

When the seedlings had made their first proper set of leaves, I transplanted each one into a separate three-inch pot and kept them on the sitting-room window sill, where they grew fast. After they had been transferred outside, they made big, bushy plants that came into flower in July. They were still flowering in

October, despite a drearily damp summer - the very thing they are said most to hate.

Because I was expecting little of them, I set them in the vegetable garden in rows between beetroot and carrots. Outraged by this treatment, they proceeded to upstage every other plant in the garden - even the dahlias. Upstaging a dahlia, when you are only a tenth of its size, is a cheeky thing to do.

Purists look down on concoctions such as 'Allsorts', but if you want to understand what tricks a flower can do, growing a mixture of these zinnias were vast footballs of flowers, shocking pink, orange and yellow. Some were an extraordinary chartreuse green. Some had wonderfully complex centres, the stamens ringed in contrasting colours. None was a duffer.

So how does one choose between varieties? I start by discounting any that the seedsmen describes as a "dwarf strain". By nature, zinnias make wonderfully muscular, meaty growth, which does not need support. The overall habit is robust and the stems are strong. Other, weakly constructed plants may be strengthened by dwarfing. Zinnias certainly do not need it.

I like the sound of 'Envy' (Mr Fothergill, £1.45) which is two feet high with lime green flowers. 'Tufted Exemption' (Mr Fothergill, £1.55) has an odd, almost conical head, with a lower row of petals making a frill round the bottom. 'Scabious Flowered' (Thompson & Morgan, £1.89) has huge, crested flowers in a mixture of scarlet, carmine, pink, yellow, orange and cream.

The first zinnia to arrive in this country was *Z. pauciflora*. Its name suggests that it was an unimpressive performer, and Philip Miller, who grew it at the Chelsea Physic Garden in the 1750s, was not enthusiastic. Most of today's garden varieties have been bred from another Mexican species, *Z. elegans*. This arrived with us in 1796, thanks to the Marchioness of Bute, wife of the Ambassador to the Spanish Court. She was given it by Professor Ortega of Madrid, who also supplied her with the first dahlias.

Perennials are no more difficult to grow from seed than annuals, and I usually try some new aquilegia each year. They like our heavy clay soil, are equally happy in sun or shade, and have handsome greyish foliage which is an asset even when the plant is not flowering. Last year I grew 'Melton Rapids' (Thompson & Morgan, £2.49), deep, inky-blue flowers of the flat-faced (so-called clematis-flowered) kind. These are much easier to keep in cultivation than the long-spurred types; however, you need both. Aquilegias, though, are such shameless cross-breeders. It is impossible to keep named varieties true to type. This year I am trying out 'Long-Spurred Choice Mixed' (Dobies, 88p). That should spawn some bizarre new mixtures.

Given an easy ride through winter, some flowers that we treat as annuals (like snapdragons) will settle down to flower again the following year. They make untidy plants, but come into bloom sooner than the new brood raised freshly from seed. So after dead-heading the snapdragons in the front border, and trimming back the straggliest growths, I've left them in situ, to see whether they'll perform again next summer.

This was an F2 strain called 'Corona Mixed' (Suttons, 99p), undwarfed at 20in, strong growing (though sprawling by nature) and in a good mix of colours. This year I want some dark-leaved, deep-red snapdragons, to put in a border with *Canna iridiflora* and the elegant grass, *Pennisetum macrocarpum*. 'Black Prince' (Thompson & Morgan, £1.69) sounds suitably saturated. This year's novelty is a snapdragon with variegated foliage: 'Powers Pride' (Thompson & Morgan, £1.99) is 12-16in tall with velvety-red flowers on top of leaves splashed and mottled with cream.

The asters 'Allsorts Mixed' (Mr Fothergill, £1.10) were a disaster, melting in the damp, overcast summer to make little heaps of powdery mildew wherever they had been planted. But they are one of a clutch of familiar flowers that I always grow, and this year I'm trying the tall 'Matsumoto Mixed' (Suttons, £1.05).

Other staples are sunflowers, Californian poppies, nasturtiums and pot marigolds. They are all easy, cheerful flowers and you need a few stalwarts you can depend on while traitorous novelties are miffing off all round you. They are good flowers to use in mixes with vegetables, too: sunflowers with sweetcorn; Californian poppies with frizzy endive or lettuce; nasturtiums to make a carpet under standard gooseberries; pot marigolds to jazz up a planting of spinach.

Yellow, daisy-flowered bidens are on the way to becoming another staple. I sowed seed of 'Golden Goddess' (Unwins, £1.89) on 8 March, and raised enough plants to plant out

in borders, as well as fill the pots for which they were all originally intended. There are still one or two flowers on a plant scrambling through the branches of a shrubby cerasstigma in the blue and yellow border.

Even more cheering are the new shoots at the base of the plant. Like the snapdragon, bidens are by nature perennial, but rarely, in this country, get a chance to settle into that comfortable habit. When I get round to cutting down the plant, those new shoots will perhaps take over. Without something to lean on, the plants flop, which is why they are so useful in containers. They fuzz the edges, and although they make a lot of growth, are never bulky. That is because their foliage is so finely cut and sparse. The flowers last for a long period as well.

Seeds are available from Mr Fothergill's Mail Order Dept, Kentford, Suffolk CB8 7QB (01638 552512); Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BU (01473 688821); Samuel Dobie & Son, Broomhill Way, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7QW (01803 618888); Suttons, Hele Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7GJ (01803 614614), and Unwins Mail Order Dept, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4ZZ (01945 588522).

## MILLENNIUM TREES

PLANTING A tree seems to be one of the few sensible things you can do to celebrate the millennium. You may guess from this remark that the millennium does not feature high on my agenda. It's only a number for heaven's sake. I worry about those 16 days that were lost in the 1600s. If we are celebrating two thousand years of the sun's rising and setting since Christ was born, then surely the shouting ought not to start until 16 January? However, each month this year, I shall be recommending a tree that is fine enough to stand the passage of time. Before you plant, think forward. And make sure you give a tree space enough to breathe.



No 1: Yew

One of our few native evergreens; slow, stalwart, long-lived and capable of resprouting from the most unprepossessing old wood. This characteristic has, in the past, made the yew a favourite choice for garden hedges. It is even more beautiful as a tree, when the trunk, after rain, takes on the rich oxblood colour of mahogany. The tensile strength that made yew the favourite choice of English archers wanting new bows, is an advantage in storm and tempest.

Look at the venerable trees in the churchyards at Tandridge in Surrey, or Brockenhurst, Hampshire, or Houghton in Buckinghamshire. This is the present you can give to future generations.

Choose the common yew, *Taxus baccata*, or perhaps one of its named varieties such as 'Dovastoniana'. This is named after a Mr Dovaston of West Felton in Shropshire, who bought the seedling from a pedlar for sixpence and planted in his garden in 1777. Its distinguishing characteristic is its habit, the foliage hanging down from the main branches in swaying curtains. It is available from The Conifer Garden, Hare Lane Nursery, Little Kingshill, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 0EF (01494 890624).

ANNA PAVORD

## Wrap up warm for the winter

Vulnerable plants need protection as the really cold weather begins to threaten, but you don't need to spend a fortune to safeguard your outdoor favourites. By Ursula Buchan

"AS THE days lengthen, the cold strengthens" is a saying I remember from my childhood. Yet, like most country saws, there is a lot of truth in it. The chances are that you will not experience a prolonged period of sub-zero temperatures until the year has turned, and the days are slowly lengthening. Now, therefore, is the time to think about protecting plants growing outside which are not bone-hardy, until temperatures begin to rise in spring.

Many people believe that this is one garden task too many, and that plants must take their chance. Either they will die, in which case you can replace them with something potentially more interesting, or else they survive and you will have been justified in doing nothing. I would never subscribe to that view. There are plenty of plants upon whose survival I do not wish to gamble. Apart from anything else, I find I can never depend on easily acquiring a plant a second time round (they have a



Use fleece to protect small, tender plants

GPL

way of vanishing from view just when I go looking for them) and the cost of many plants hardly justifies such prodigality. Most gardens contain one or two slightly tender plants, especially evergreens, which can suffer from frost or cold wind damage. *Carpenteria*, *ceanothus*, *abutilon*, *Cytisus battandieri*, myrtle, lemon-scented verberna, and *Hebe speciosa* are likely suspects. But there are also herbaceous

plants which we do not wish to dig up each autumn and preserve inside, such as *Salvia* and *Cosmos atrosanguineus*.

The trick to wrapping up a plant in winter is to use something that will allow it to transpire without it becoming sweaty and fungus-prone, and, if possible, also to photosynthesise once dormancy comes to an end in early spring.

Bubble wrap has the advantage of being transparent, so

that plants receive some light. It is best to tuck in straw or spun fleece, then attach the bubble insulation only loosely (with waterproof tape) to the wall on each side of the plant.

Bubble pack is also suitable for protecting plants in containers. The growing medium in containers freezes more easily than soil in the border, so the roots of even hardy plants in pots are vulnerable to frost.

Straw, if available, is a good insulator but an adequate alternative, which can be bought in any garden centre, is polypropylene windbreak material. For small plants, the best material is spun fleece. It is easy to get hold of, not expensive, and excellent for protecting the crowns of tender perennials, such as *Salvia patens*, because it can be cut to size and tied down with pegs, or secured by soil heaped on the edges. It can also be laid in more than one layer in severe weather. This is a material that many gardeners find invaluable for protecting early

sowings of vegetables in the spring or late crops in the autumn, but there is no reason why it should not have a prominent place in the winter garden - especially as it is a more sympathetic material aesthetically than black polythene. It is also just the ticket, in early spring, for throwing over a small fruit tree in flower, or a vulnerable hydrangea, if frost is forecast.

It is probably a bit flimsy for very windswept places; it is easily blown away if not well secured. Last spring, after some blustery weather, I found a portion of it hanging from a climbing rose on the house, and traced it to a vegetable garden down the street. Spun fleece rarely lasts more than one season, but is so easy to handle that it takes the grind out of winter protection. And, if the winter really comes hard, that protection could be the difference between life and death. So, in the words of another saying from my childhood: "Wrap up warm or you won't feel the benefit."

## THE INDEPENDENT

### Corkscrew Hazel

(*Corylus Contorta*) - Just £10.95 inc p&p



The Corkscrew Hazel (*Corylus Contorta*) has the most fascinating twisted branches. It has delightful yellow catkins from January to April and is invaluable for winter colour. It is slow growing, reaching eventually 10'. The secret is to keep it at a manageable 5' - 6' and crop branches for dried vase arrangements. On the continent the Corkscrew Hazel is grown en masse for flower arrangers.

The price for one of these delightful shrubs is just £10.95 inc p&p.

**HOW TO ORDER** Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order. NO CASH please to - THE INDEPENDENT CORKSCREW HAZEL OFFER. PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester M16 9HY.

For ACCESS/VISA ORDERS, PLEASE PHONE 0161 848 1165. Please quote ref. INQ95 when ordering. We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund of our completely satisfied. Offer subject to availability.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Corkscrew Hazels @ £10.95 each inc p&p. I enclose a crossed cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (address on back) made payable to: INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS (UK) LTD (ENQ95) or debit my Access/VISA account by this amount. My card number is: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive from other (non Independent Newspapers) (UK) Ltd or companies associated with Independent Newspapers (UK) Ltd. ☐ ☐



## I WANT TO OWN... A JUICE EXTRACTOR

## More juice, please

**T**here are two common ways to cure post-Christmas depression, both for around £500 a head. The first is to book your summer holiday and tighten your financial belt for the next six months. The second is to book into a gym and tighten your trouser belt for the next six months.

The cheap, healthy way to clear your head and restore your energy is to give your internal engine an oil change by increasing the amount and quality of fluid you drink. H<sub>2</sub>O is the obvious solution, but rampant branding of the bottled variety combined with the unsavoury reputation of the on-tap stuff has literally clouded the waters of this ubiquitous liquid's life-sustaining qualities. And fizzy water is so Eighties.

The thought of rustling up a glass of freshly pulped, exotic fruit juice, though, seems far more in keeping with the zeitgeist, given the current vogue for juice bars where Sunny Delight-shunning aficionados sup cocktails of aloe vera, bluegreen algae and wheatgrass. The latter is available at Planet Organic (0171-221 7171) but at £12 a tray - around 20 fluid ounces of juice - it's a tad more expensive than the turf from the local garden centre.

Not that you have to go so far out of your way to concoct healthy drinks. Raw materials are plentiful in your local supermarket, and the nutritional value of, say, watermelon juice should not be underestimated - it stocks nearly as many vitamins as Boots (beta-carotene, folic acid, B1, B2, B3, B5, B6) and half a periodic table's worth of minerals, including calcium, magnesium and potassium.

Would that have cured the raging hangover you woke with on New Year's Day? Probably not, but if you make the right juicer purchase then you can always use it to concoct perfect Bloody Marys. Researchers experimenting on rats may claim to have disproved the restorative capability of bar-tender Fernand L. Poirot's 69-year-old hangover cure, but the hair of that particular bloodhound still works wonders on me.

## MAY THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE BE WITH YOU

**Name:** Waring Professional Juice Extractor  
**Price:** £239  
**Stockists:** 0181-232 8171

**What it looks like:** The big daddy of centrifugal juice extractors, this looks like a sinister cloning experiment using the genes of a pressure cooker: cast iron body, stainless steel parts and the sort of heavy-duty motor that keeps 18-wheel rigs on the freeways.

**What it does:** Centrifugal juicers work by grating fruit and veg through a fine mesh then ejecting the pulp and skin through rapid rotation. They aren't particularly efficient, and cleaning them is a royal pain in the ass. But they can be cheap - and all of them make tastier, creamier juice than the best freshly squeezed juices on offer in the supermarkets. This one is bigger, badder and better than the rest.

**Style:** \*

**Any others worth considering?** If colour co-ordination is your prime consideration, then Magimix do a range of 250-watt juice extractors in yellow, green, black and blue as well as the common white (£29.50). According to Good Housekeeping, which is more concerned with practicality than looks, the 250-watt,

two-speed Hinari Lifestyle JEP311 (£26.50, stockists 0181-594 5533) delivers the best orange juice of the cheaper models in the range. Kenwood's two-speed JES500 (£36.25, stockists 01705 476000) gives the most acceptable carrot juice.

## THE PRESS GANG

**Name:** Rachand Products Giant Citrus Press

**Price:** £160

**Stockists:** Selfridges (0171-629 1234)

**What it looks like:** The chunky metal nuts attaching its long, sprung-lever arm to its base give the Giant Press the appearance of a galvanised acoustic guitar stock. Upside down.

**What it does:** If oranges are the only fruit you're interested in - and let's face it, who is interested in alfalfa or kale juice? - then this industrial-looking beast mauls them with brutal efficiency. Chop your Vitamin C-carrier in half, shove it into the vice and pull on the lever. Your orange's last thought as the hydraulic lever crushes the life out of it will be of Sweeney Todd.

**Style:** \*\*\*

**Any others worth considering?** The compact, dome-topped Proline Chrome Citrus Juicer (£52.95, stockists 0171-730 1234) and Dancer's cheaper copy (£29.95, John Lewis, 0171-629 7711), both of which look like the bastard offspring of an affair between R2D2 and a chrome cappuccino machine.

## ON A BENDER

**Name:** Waring Professional Blender

**Price:** £149.95

**Stockists:** Divertimenti (0181-246 4300) or 0181-232 8171 for other retailers

**What it looks like:** As well-proportioned as New York's Chrysler Tower and as important a symbol of American design (see picture, right). The Waring blender's 1.25-litre glass jar (there is a metal version for £169) but it doesn't have the Coca-Cola coolness of the glass version, in production since 1935) sits snugly over blades sharper than Edward's scissorhands, atop a chrome plated platform (again there is a version with a blue enamel base for £149).

**What it does:** Shreds fruit and veg into a thick, smooth liquid, and crushes ice - perfect for Margaritas!

**Style:** \*\*\*\*\*

**Any others worth considering?** Hamilton Beach does a 330-watt, 1.25-litre budget blender (£59.95, Liberty, 0171-734 1234) or a versatile, seven-speed pro model (£80), but the buttons on the latter are ugly. Better looking is Magimix's streamlined, 450-watt, two-speed Pro Blender (£119, John Lewis, 0171-629 7711), although its chunky tower looks like cheaply recycled glass and the plastic fittings are unsightly.

**Style:** \*\*\*\*

**Any others worth considering?** Grueneweg does a stainless steel version (£12.99) of the classic glass lemon squeezer for those still living under the misapprehension that the Seventies really did come back in fashion. It also does a more contemporary-looking version with interchangeable cones for lime, lemon and grapefruit (£20, both Selfridges, 0171-629 1234).

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**Any others worth considering?** Plenty, including the hardware pulper's handbook, *Complete Raw Juice Therapy* (£5.99, Thorsons, 0870 9002050) which includes a "cure" for cancer - two pints of carrot or beetroot a day - and *Juice High: Experience the Power of Raw Energy* (£7.99, Books etc, 0171-379 6838) which, despite its tinned-in, dropped-out title is so uninformative as to current pop mores that it believes Ginger Spice comprises three carrots, a pear and a chunk of ginger.

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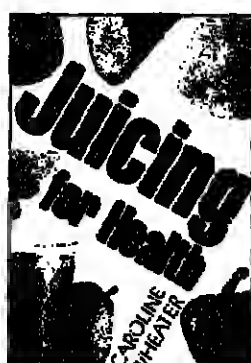
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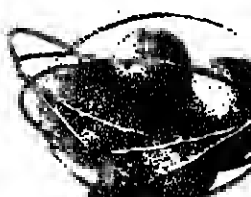
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Ginger De Tox, £1.15, Cranks



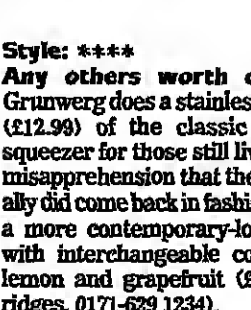
Juicing for Health, £6.99, Books etc



Open-sided fruit bowl, £39.95, Ocean



Tumblers, £24.95 for 12, Divertimenti



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HOT SPOT  
CARDIFF, BARRY AND PENARTH

Posh and poor down on the waterfront



PENNY JACKSON

Experts agree that housing markets will continue to be shaky and uncertain in 1999

ON ONE thing all property pundits are agreed. There is a nervousness in the market which will see business in the New Year start with a whimper rather than a bang. The cause of this caution is harder to pin down.

One thing is clear, people's perception of what they can afford is more closely tied to economic forecasts than interest rates. While borrowing looks as attractive as it does, this would seem a good moment to brave the property market, but according to FPD Savills Research, we are saving more and choosing to spend more on leisure activities.

Consumer confidence (low at present) and job security (shaky in a number of areas) have more bearing on house-price rises than how cheap money is. Savills forecast that prices in the mainstream will rise by 4 per cent over the coming 12 months while prime central London will fall by 5 per cent, explained by the uncertain financial sector and an overall increase in supply. They do not expect the investment demand to pick up until yields rise above 9 per cent again.

Robin Paterson, group managing director of Hamptons International, believes that prices in many areas of London have yet to "bottom out". Outside the capital with its equally fragmented picture he says that prices still need to fall in some areas by as much as 10 per cent.

At the same time, good quality homes in prime locations will do better

towards the end of the year. Country houses may well rise by 5 per cent from Spring.

At Knight Frank, they do not expect buyers to pay over the odds for less than outstanding houses, as they did last year.

However, some show real optimism. At John D Wood, Peter Young does not expect the wariness to last for long. "Whatever the cloud, whether the Gulf War or a gloomy economic forecast, people hesitate for a while and then get back to business as usual."

But perhaps the candid summary of Bidwells, property consultants, is the one that most closely reflects how many people feel. "The prospects for the property industry over the next 12 months have never been more difficult to read. It does seem probable that the top of the performance cycle has been reached but with the fundamentals for the market remaining sound, the landing is likely to be soft."

THE HARBOURS in Cardiff and Barry used to work for a living. Soon, they will mostly devote themselves to leisure pursuits.

Thanks to a new barrage enclosing the bay between Cardiff and Penarth, a large permanent freshwater lake will replace mud flats. A sizeable swathe of Barry's waterfront is being reclaimed. Like a fairy godmother, waterfront urban regeneration is transforming South Glamorgan almost beyond recognition.

This area has always blended posh and poor, and the popular villages in the Vale of Glamorgan will oblige you if you want to spend seven digits' worth of pounds. In urban areas, less than £50,000 buys a new or not so new flat or, in some areas, even a house. New luxury three-bedroom flats and penthouses cost upwards of £300,000.

Cyncoed, Llandaff, Whitchurch and Heath are among Cardiff's premier residential areas. "The top end of the market is very strong," says the man who gives his name to Kelvin Francis and Co. estate agents, "and

the best houses can cost more than £400,000. But three-bedroom homes are also available for as little as £75,000. Heath is always a good investment. It's a barometer. If Heath is not selling well, the market generally is in poor shape. Heath is an ideal middle ground."

"A good place for a bargain in Penarth," says Victoria Bywater of John Leslie estate agents. "is the town centre where there are small traditional terraces, many in poor condition." She also recommends the area near Paget Road and Paget Place, where bay views come with houses, some very large. "People have already caught on to this. A year ago the mid-terrace four- or five-bedroom house you could have picked up for £80-£95,000 now sells for about £90,000."

Cheaper still are ex-council flats, although the recent relocation of large numbers of problem families is plaguing some of these estates.

Even cheaper is Barry where, says Ms Bywater, "a two- or three-bed mid-terrace sells for £35-40,000 and



The popular Pontcanna district of Cardiff has seen strong property price rises

Rob Stratton

would go for £55-60,000 in Penarth." The countryside "contains many attractive villages but not many properties are available and access into Cardiff isn't good," says Mr Francis. The schools in the area, in Ms By-

water's view, "are wonderful. Two comprehensive schools, Stanmore Road and St Cyrus, have excellent reputations, and there are many private and primary schools to choose from."

Ms Bywater believes that "with the

barrage opening completion and many businesses moving to the area, everyone needs homes but the limited supply means that prices are moving up quite rapidly".

ROBERT LIEBMAN

LOWDOWN

Prices: Cardiff developer St David has just raised the prices on the 21 flats, penthouses and town houses in its Meridian development in Penarth, bringing them to between £195,000 and £300,000. In Penarth, new flats and period houses both return change from £100,000. Ex-council houses are available for £65,000, and flats for less than £40,000. Cardiff is generally more, and Barry less, expensive. Transport: The M4 skirts Cardiff

to the north. Inter-city rail service serves London via Bristol and Bath. Local trains link Cardiff, Penarth and Barry. Cardiff International Airport is three miles west of Barry. Seeing and Doing: Plenty of waterfront and open country mean plenty of boating and golf. The area has lots of attractions for all tastes and age groups. Later this year: Elections for the Welsh Assembly are due to be held

in May. The Rugby World Cup is coming in June. Judging by Travel Brochure: "It's an age-old adage, but it's true. People do judge places by the standard of toilet facilities." Estate Agents: John Leslie & Partners, Penarth 01222 712266; Kelvin Francis & Co, Cardiff 01222 766538. Shopping and Dining: In the Cardiff area there are four malls and plenty of quality restaurants.

Japanese cars could yet seduce us Euro snobs

THIS WILL be the year when Japanese car manufacturers start to win over the hearts and heads of Europe's car buyers.

They have won over the rest of the world, of course. Whether it be Dar-es-Salaam, Dubai, Delhi or even Detroit, the majority of the people know and accept that, when it comes to cars, the Japanese do it best.

An American friend of mine, who knows a thing or two about cars, can never quite figure why our crazy Europeans still buy our Rovers and our Renaults and our Fiat (VWs, we can just about fathom) instead of Japanese-built cars.

He puts it down to the same rich vein of eccentricity that has persuaded the French to stick

with yellow headlights, the English to drive on the left, and the Italians to drive at all.

I put it down to government protection, national customer bias, badge snobbery (we are much more status-conscious than the Americans, despite what we pretend) and ignorance.

It is a sad and undeniable truth that, in terms of production engineering and construction quality, Toyota and Honda are the world's finest car-makers. Most of the other Japanese manufacturers are not that far behind. The Europeans are catching up, as are the Americans, but the gap is still pretty obvious.

Another major consideration in Europe's successful

rearguard action against the Japanese has been their leadership in "emotional" values. European cars are thought to have more "personality".

Literally, of course. Tin boxes with engines cannot have personalities, but the Europeans have long been masters of pleasing customer sensibilities by their attractive styling, communicative handling, and promotion of brand values.

It has taken the Japanese much longer to learn these intangible virtues than it did the black-and-white issues such as tidy assembly, value for money and good reliability.

There have certainly been flashes of inspiration (Mazda MX-5, Honda CR-X, Toyota RAV-



GAVIN GREEN

It is a sad truth that, in terms of engineering and construction quality, Toyota and Honda are the world's finest car-makers

4, Nissan Skyline GT-R). But just when you think - "they've cracked it!" - they launch a Mazda 323, a Honda Accord, a Toyota Corolla or a Nissan Anything-But-A-Skyline. And Europe's makers breathe a collective sigh of relief again.

This year promises to be different. First, there are two cracking new Toyota models on the way, which are as desirable as they are sensible. The first is the new Yaris, the baby hatchback that was previewed at the Paris Motor Show in September and will be assembled in France. It is bound to be

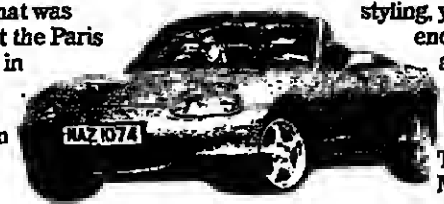
as reliable as a Japanese watch. To boot, it has a pleasing streak of individuality about its styling and promises to be brilliantly economical. It is likely to be the star car in Europe's biggest car class, the Fiesta sector.

Also on its way is Toyota's first Lexus model aimed at Europe rather than America. The LS200, previewed at the Birmingham Show a couple of months ago, has a touch of BMW styling, yet has enough design and

engineering originality to persuade people finally to part with their BMWs. Also imminent are road versions of the Subaru Impreza and Mitsubishi Lancer rally cars which Colin McRae and Richard Burns used to such devastating effect in international rallies last year. These super-powerful, brilliant handling machines are all the motoring rage in southeast Asia but have long been denied to UK customers.

They are true "hero" machines, cars which could do to mid-range European sports saloons what the Nintendo 64 did to the bagatelle. They are bound to elevate the images of their manufacturers, and the image of Japanese car-makers.

The Mazda MX-5



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# Gainful resolutions

Losing weight  
is one thing,  
but saving  
money is a  
resolution  
that it pays  
to keep.

By Nic Cicutti

**E**very New Year, I make a series of resolutions. Mostly, they are to do with health and fitness. To be honest, I rarely stick to them: they demand constant application – and I am congenitally lazy.

Financial resolutions are different, however. Once you have carried out the particular task you set out to, that should be it. Except that in this case, you could be hundreds of pounds better off.

Here is my list of things to do in 1999. Some of these ideas have already featured in *The Independent*. If you haven't yet taken advantage of them, it will almost certainly pay to act on them now.

■ Find more competitive home contents and motor insurance. It is a sad fact that most insurers rely on policyholders' inertia to make money. This literally means that many will offer a highly competitive quote in the first year, only to rack up premiums in subsequent years.

They expect that you will stay with them for at least two or three years before you tire of their high prices. Ten minutes' worth of phone calls to obtain a better quote, on the other hand, could save you a fortune.

One relatively new insurer on the block is Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society. The company is at present heavily undercutting most of its rivals in a bid to grab more business. In practice, this means many of its premiums are up to a third cheaper. Give it a try on 0800 603603.

■ Paying off the mortgage early is most people's dream. Here is one way to do it: take out a 10-year fixed-rate loan with First Mortgage, pegged at 5.95 per cent, and get it over and done with in that period.

The interest savings could be vast. Using the 10-year repayment option would mean that a £50,000 mortgage would incur total interest charges of £17,773. By contrast, a 25-year repayment loan, even at First Mortgage's good value 7.7 per cent variable rate, would mean paying £64,112 in interest, £46,339 more. First Mortgage's number is 0800 080088.

■ Every year, PEP companies flood newspapers with adverts designed to sell you one of their financial products. The hard sell may be repugnant, but there's no denying that for higher-rate taxpayers who want to set aside fairly large sums every year, tax-free savings schemes are a good idea.

Key to the process is finding the right funds to invest in. If you are not an expert investor,



When the party's over, a few judicious phone calls will get the new year off to a good start SDR/Alan Peebles

IFA Promotion will supply you with a list of three independent financial advisers based in your area. They are now listed according to their expertise. Call 0117 9711177.

If you don't want to pay heavy commission and know what to invest in already, the (oddly named) Building Society Shop has a nifty idea. It sends you a guide which allows you to select an appropriate PEP based on a flow chart which gives you a range of up to 16 different investment options. In some cases, not only do you save up to £300 in commission – they pay you to invest your money. Call 0321 237833 (toll-free) for your guide.

Alternatively, you could try the similarly named ISA Shop for hefty discounts that could, in some cases, not only mean no initial charge at all for investing in a PEP but you could get back in cash up to 0.75 per cent of the sum invested paid to you. The ISA shop has dozens of PEPs to choose between, from its own comprehensive (and free) 64-page guide. Call 01777 839205.

■ By now you will be rather sick of being told that you should be pumping more money into a pension. The fact remains, however, that most of us are grossly underfunded when it comes to our retirement income.

Moreover, the taxman is extremely generous in helping us save. For every £60 paid into a pension by a higher-rate taxpayer, the Inland Revenue offers a further £40. In practice, this is an automatic 66 per cent overnight increase in the value of your initial investment. It is

also possible to go back up to six years and make use of unused allowances. You have until 5 April to decide where the money should go.

The key to successful pension saving lies in minimising the cost of contributions into a scheme, especially initial charges. Which is where Torquil Direct Choice comes in. The company has negotiated

*If Christmas shopping has caused near-terminal damage to your credit card, it is time to switch*

with a number of leading pension providers – Standard Life, Scottish Widows, Scottish Life and CGU – whereby it will offer one of their pensions.

Instead of hefty commission fees, Torquil Direct Choice will charge just £50 plus VAT to set up the pension. Torquil also receives a small "trail" commission for as long as the plan is kept going.

The result, according to the company, is that assuming the same rate of growth, a pension fund set up with Torquil Direct would be worth more than though other self-professed ultra-cheap providers such as Tesco or Virgin Direct. Call 08000 561836.

■ Life insurance is something anyone with a family

needs. It is also virtually mandatory when buying a home.

Over the past few years, term assurance has gained in popularity. This is where you set a term, say 10 or 20 years, and insure your life for a sum that is chosen by you. You then pay a regular monthly premium. If you die within that period, your estate collects. If you don't, it doesn't.

Surprisingly for such a "plain vanilla" product, where mortality risks are similar for all insurers, premiums can vary wildly. But a new company, Life-Search, aims to subvert all that high-charging nonsense. Quite simply, Life-Search promises to undercut the price of any policy sold on the market. If you can find a cheaper quote, it will beat it.

For example, a non-smoking female aged 40 could obtain cover that pays out £200,000 in the event of death within 20 years for £28.35 a month. Norwich Union, by contrast, would charge £52.80 for an identical policy. Call Life-Search on 0845 6030401.

■ Finding a decent home for your savings where you also receive relatively speedy access is hard to achieve.

In recent weeks, the new Egg Savings Account has been in the spotlight, thanks to the 8 per cent gross rate of interest it has paid savers since its launch in October. This rate is now set to drop to 7.25 per cent. Despite this cut, Egg, which is owned by Prudential, is still a highly attractive place for your savings.

Even so, almost nine out of 10 can't be bothered to shop around for the best rate on a

monthly basis, and 85 per cent say they haven't done so in the past five years. Only 7 per cent do so every three years.

For savers who prefer not to open a savings account only for the initially attractive rate to start sinking below its competitors a few weeks later, there are two options.

One is Virgin Direct. The company's new instant-access Deposit account offers a rate of interest guaranteed not to be more than 1 per cent below the UK clearing-bank base rate – until December 2001. Right now, that means 6.25 per cent gross, though that may fall shortly.

Alternatively, First Active, best known for its highly flexible mortgages, has launched a Fairdeal account, promising the average of the 20 highest-paying instant access accounts on the market. To spice things up, First Active is taking the average interest of the top 20, paid on balances over £10,000 – where rates are usually highest, currently 7.16 per cent gross – but in Fairdeal's case, applying it to a minimum balance of £1,000. Call 0800 558844 for details.

■ Finally, if Christmas shopping has caused near-terminal damage to your credit card, it is time to switch. Capital One Bank, a leading US card issuer, offers two alternatives. One is a card with a 6.9 per cent APR introductory rate until 31 July. The other is a rate of 9.9 per cent APR until 2001. Both cards have the usual 54 days' worth of interest-free credit. And they charge no annual fee, unlike many of their rivals. This one is a no-brainer. Call 0500 200400.

## Mutually beneficial for society members

MEMBERS OF a building society could benefit by an average of almost £2,200 compared to a bank, by saving and holding a mortgage with a mutually-owned institution. But those likely to gain the most from a mutual are younger building society members with larger sums to save and bigger home loans.

This is the verdict of a series of surveys which also show building societies dominate the best-value tables for mortgages and Tessas.

In the past three years, nine out of the 10 cheapest lenders have been building societies, according to a report by the Research Department, an independent financial information provider.

A separate survey by MoneyFacts showed that a borrower with Coventry Building Society, the cheapest lender, would have paid £3,985 in interest over one year on a typical £50,000 interest-only variable-rate loan. The society's figures, however, look more favourable by virtue of being calculated on the basis of its "privilege" rate, which

is 0.75 per cent lower for borrowers who stay with it for 61 months or more.

Other cheap lenders include Nationwide (charging £4,070 for the same loan) Bradford & Bingley (£4,082) and Yorkshire Building Society (£4,106). Direct Line, a recent entrant in the home loan market, was second cheapest after one year (£4,009) and also cheapest after three years.

The cheapest non-mutual over three years was Northern Rock in 11th place – although it too used its "loyalty" variable rate to arrive at an overall interest repayment of £4,228. The next cheapest bank was Midland, which charged £4,332.

For Tessas, building societies again led the pack, with 16 of the 20 top-paying providers. The best Tessa at the beginning of this month came from Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, and paid £11,655 on a maximum £9,000 investment. This was £571 more than the worst provider, Yorkshire Bank.

Of the newly de-mutualised societies, Halifax came 17th out of 85, with a payout of £11,537, while Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock came 82nd, 76th and 63rd respectively.

Adrian Coles, director general at the Building Societies Association, says: "These surveys show that building societies are offering the most competitive deals."

Despite the good news for society members, a separate survey on behalf of Reuters suggests that there is a benefits threshold which mutuals must meet to retain loyalty. The threshold is set at £2,200, the average free share hand-out from de-mutualising societies such as Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and others. Average benefits come close, at £2,196 – the assumed amount for a borrower with 10 years to run on a £80,000 mortgage and £11,000 in a savings account.

To stay ahead in the loyalty stakes, societies should increase savings rates and lower borrowers rates even further, the report suggests.

NIC CICUTTI

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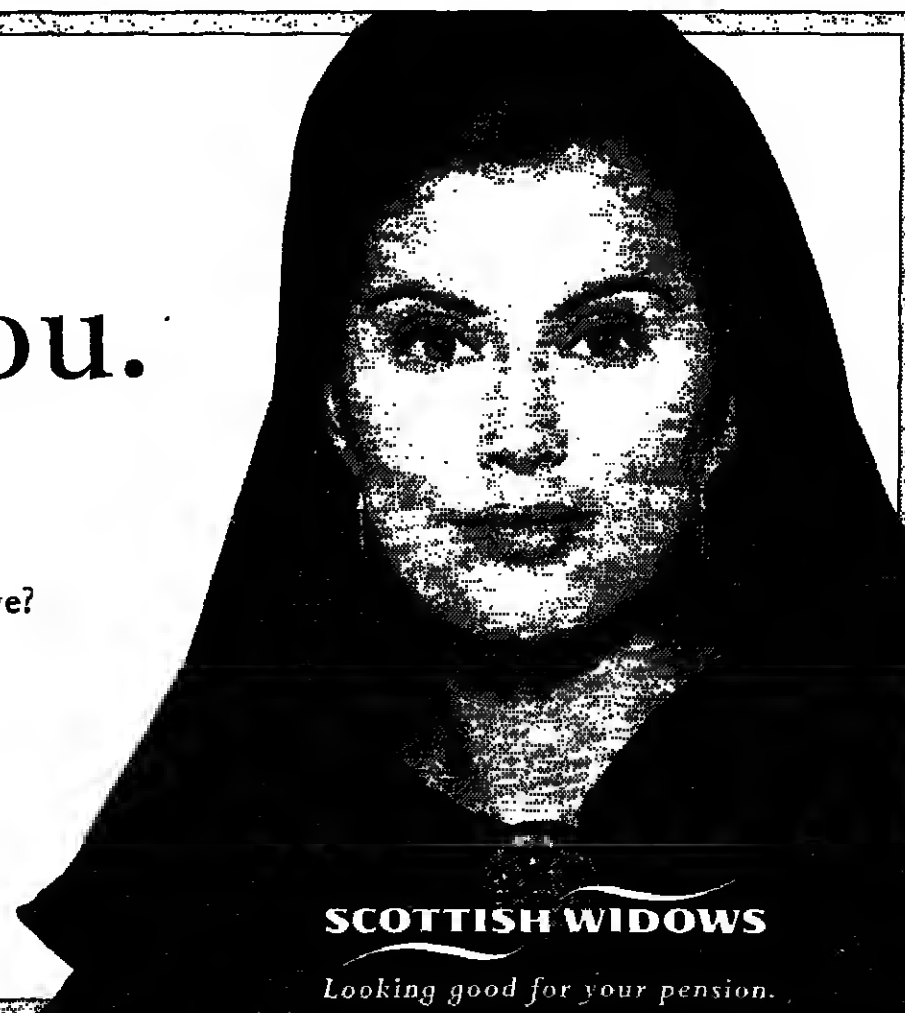
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The sweeping valleys and mountains near Oletta are a good place for hiking – even if the wild sheep, said to be lurking in the area, prove elusive

John Miller/RHPL

# Wild beasts and red-blooded passions

The craggy hills of Corsica are alive with vengeance, vendetta and rare animals. And it's perfect walking country. By Kathy Marks

Jean-François, our guide, raised a forefinger and the group fell silent. We gazed out over the broad sweep of the valley at the rocky slopes sprinkled with ancient Laricio pines. Overhead, an eagle soared among the granite peaks. But there was no sign of our elusive quarry.

Setting off at first light, we had hiked up to a windswept ridge near the summit of the 1,500-metre Cuccavera Pass in central Corsica. It had been a long and arduous climb, punctuated by bursts of rainfall. Would we be rewarded with a glimpse of a mouflon?

Three days earlier none of us had even heard of this creature, whose name sounded like a colloquialism for a strangled French sheep. Now, a little wiser about the local fauna, we knew it to be a rare species of wild mountain sheep native to Corsica and neighbouring Sardinia.

On Sardinia, mouflon were long

ago hunted to extinction. The Corsican flock has dwindled to little more than 1,000 animals although the species has been protected, in theory since the early Seventies. The Cuccavera Pass is part of the Monte Cinto massif, one of two regions where the animals still roam.

For me, and for my dozen companions, the die was cast on the day that we arrived in Evisa, the mountain village that was the base for our week-long walking holiday. Heading to the hotel bar for an aperitif, we noticed a striking photograph hanging on the wall. It showed a singular-looking creature crowned by gigantic spiral horns. We almost choked on our pastis. The great mouflon hunt had begun.

Day after day we scanned the maquis, the dense tangle of undergrowth that shrouds much of Corsica's rugged interior. Our hopes were highest in the early morning, when mouflon emerge to gorge themselves on grasses and leaves

before ascending to some remote crag to lounge in the sun. But despite our vigilance, they remained tantalisingly out of sight.

Meanwhile the rest of the island's wildlife – ubiquitous and unpredictable – competed for our attention. We saw dark brown cows scrambling up sheer rock faces, nimble as goats, and sheep snoozing among pine needles in the scent of forests. Herds of goats and semi-wild pigs wandered freely and congregated on the narrow mountain roads, a hazard for unwary drivers. In Evisa, cows ambled along the main street in the moonlight, in pairs like elderly married couples.

Given this proliferation of animal life, it came as no surprise to learn that traditional Corsican cuisine revolves unashamedly around red meat. Cousins of the creatures that scampered past us on our hikes often ended up on our plates in the evening, in the form of steaks, salamis and home-cured hams,

stews and casseroles of veal, pork and kid.

The most prized local meat comes from an animal that I only ever expected to see on a supper table: wild boar. Yet one day, peering over a grass verge near the village of Marignana, I saw two



hulking, black-bristled beasts rooting around in a vast rubbish tip. It may have been one of their final forays for our visit coincided with the boar-hunting season, and consequently the maquis echoed to the crackle of rifles.

It is, perhaps, only natural that the Corsican diet is so unashamedly red-blooded. For this is an island famed for vengeance and vendetta, where an insult to family honour could once spark a vicious feud that lasted for decades and claimed scores of lives. It is difficult to conceive of such seething passions among a race of vegetarians.

The last vendetta ended in a village near the capital, Ajaccio, in the Fifties, but scores are still settled swiftly and ruthlessly. During a trip to Bonifacio, the ancient southern port, we learnt of a turf war between rival tourist-boat operators. Tempers overheated, a man lost an arm. We saw him on the quayside, one sleeve dangling free.

Intriguing though this was, it was a diversion from the main plot. By now the week was almost over, without so much as a sniff of a mouflon. At a rowdy late-night session fuelled by myrtle liqueur, a local specialty, we decided to give it one final shot, to make an excursion to south-eastern Corsica, to a place where – if the gods smiled on us – we might just strike gold.

Our destination was the high pastureland of the Bavelia Pass, where mouflon are said to graze in the shadow of the famous granite pinnacles. The road twisted its vertiginous way up to the village of Zonza before penetrating a thick forest of pine and chestnut. Herds of pigs foraged among the autumn leaves. Ever optimistic, we gazed to left and right, hoping to see a woolly creature peeping out shyly from behind a tree. Once again, we were cruelly disappointed.

Jean-François did his best to console us. It was not a good time

of year to spot mouflon, he explained. Better to visit later in winter, when the snow drives them to lower altitudes. Or in June, during their brief mating season, when the males compete by charging across valleys at each other, from as far as 30 miles away.

The ram left standing after the collision – often the older, tougher one – gets the girl, according to Jean-François. But after the age of seven, the males are no longer fertile. Hence a laughably low reproduction rate that helps explain the rarity of the species – together with the island's large population of foxes, who regard baby mouflon as a delicacy.

Our prey could hardly be blamed for keeping a low profile, we decided. With poachers, foxes and impotent rams to contend with, it was not surprising if mouflon felt lukewarm about posing for photographs. It was time for us to give up and stop chasing rainbows.

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# Where health and wealth go together

In search of clean living or a looser waistband? Try taking a luxury New Year break at a health farm.

By Roger Mills

**T**urkey mince pies, port and Stilton – and so the rich list goes on. By now the lean, spry, energetic pre-Christmas version of yourself that you liked so much has probably vanished, taking a good bit of your self-esteem with it. Time for a drastic remedy. Time, perhaps, for a visit to one of Britain's growing number of health farms.

If you want to take the hair-shirt route back to health and loose waistbands, your best bet is probably the Tynningham Naturopathic Clinic, just off the M1 near Newport Pagnell. Tynningham gets spectacular dieting results – a Mancunian journalist who weighed in at more than 20 stone shed nearly a third of this during a 15-week stay.

But it is definitely not for the pamper set. Austerity and alternative medicine are the distinctive features of the Tynningham approach. Diet is strictly vegetarian and alcohol, chocolate and even coffee are off limits. Tynningham's alternative therapies, available alongside the more usual exercise facilities, include acupuncture and homeopathy, and there is also a range of bath therapies you wouldn't even find in the Time Out classifieds section. One of these involves putting your bottom in hot water and your feet in cold, and then doing the reverse 10 minutes later. There's nothing like it for getting your lymph drainage system moving.

For anyone with motivation problems, the solution is the Galway Health Farm set in a deer park overlooking Galway Bay on Ireland's Atlantic coast. Galway isn't just about slimming. Your entire lifestyle is up for grabs and one of the first things that happens is a consultation with a psychotherapist to look at how you live, what you want out of your life, and what usually turns out to be the considerable distance



Champneys near Tring – the cream (if one is allowed to use such a term) of health resorts

Massey Partnership

between the two. The Galway treatment is extremely personal, with only eight to 10 guests staying at any one time.

Its other secret weapon lies in the figure of its proprietress, the formidable Margaret McNulty. Mrs McNulty describes herself as a type of "big matron" to her charges, and ex-residents testify – with an affectionate awe – to her outstanding powers when it comes to galvanising the sluggish. "Every time you turn round, she's there just behind your shoulder," said one. Even just 10 minutes talking to her on the phone to check a few details left me with a vague sense that I ought to go out for a run.

If all this sounds too much on the spartan side, there are some gentler alternatives. "Medical hut pampering" was how a health-farm expert described Grayshott Hall, near Hindhead in Surrey. Grayshott boasts two dining-rooms; a light diet one and one offering less waistline-friendly fare for the days when you can't quite see what the point of all the self-discipline stuff is. Health and dietary consultations are highly rated here, with a team of experts who are older and more experienced than the norm, and the treatments on offer go well beyond the usual beauty and fitness collection. More off-the-beaten-track therapies

include reiki, shiatsu and cranial osteopathy. This latter treatment is a mysterious, if effective one.

The therapist lays their hands on your head, applying gentle pressure. After 20 minutes or so you begin to feel a warm glow suffusing your body, and any stress you are feeling seems to melt away, leaving you either with a powerful desire to laugh or, more commonly, shed cathartic tears.

Even more luxurious than Grayshott is Champneys near Tring. One look at its car park full of Rollers, Jags and BMWs tells you that this is the cream (if one is allowed to use such a term) of

health resorts. Speak to people about Champneys and the agenda shifts subtly from the kinds of thing you'll hear about other health spas. Yes, the treatments and the therapists are all absolutely top notch.

Yes, the gym equipment is state of the art. But the real news about Champneys is the sumptuous £5.5m refurbishment and the new dining room which could compete with any Michelin-starred competitor in town. Being a luxury hotel seems to be at least as important to Champneys as being a health resort and, coming here, you get the impression that gain doesn't really have to involve pain at all – as long as around

£200 a night for a twin room doesn't present problems, that is.

Luxurious, pricey Champneys is one extreme, but what if you want to have a laugh while doing yourself some good? Topping the fun farm category comes Henlow Grange near Hitchin, which has become increasingly popular with groups, notably hen parties, in recent years. Activity is the order of the day here, with group aerobics high on the list of activities.

This is definitely not the place to go if meditative unwinding is what you are after, but if you want to do your suffering in good company, and with a broad grin on your face,

Henlow Grange is unquestionably a very good bet.

For further information or to make a booking for the Tynningham Naturopathic Clinic, Galway Health Farm, Grayshott Hall, Champneys and Henlow Grange, contact Healthy Venues on 01203 690300. This is a free health-farm advisory and reservations service working with 18 residential health farms and 80 spa venues in Britain and Ireland. Anyone making a reservation for the first time through the service will receive a £5 discount voucher, and a £10 voucher for subsequent reservations.

## SOMETHING TO DECLARE

NEWS FROM THE TRAVEL WORLD

**Best deals:** This will almost certainly be the best January yet for bargain hunters. At least, that is, for flyers from Stansted. Ryanair (0541 569 569) has just announced a "two-

for-one" deal, which could mean travel between the UK and Dublin for as little as £40 for two. And Go (0845 60 54321) has fares of £70 return to Rome, Lisbon and Bologna, £50 to

Milan and Copenhagen, and £40 to Edinburgh.

**Ten New Year's resolutions:** Here's a selection of dos and don'ts that the Foreign Office would like to recommend.

**Cyprus:** Don't try to make fraudulent claims on your insurance policy. The police prosecute tourists for this offence and prison sentences and heavy fines have been imposed.

**Eastern Europe:** Don't attempt to change money on the street – you are liable to be robbed.

**Egypt:** Do respect local laws and customs. Women should dress modestly. Drunkenness can lead to arrest.

**France:** Don't let go of your luggage at French airports. Security staff may remove and destroy unattended luggage. No compensation can be claimed for destroyed property.

**Greece:** Don't, if you are a charter flight passenger, leave Greece on overnight trips to neighbouring countries. This will invalidate the charter ticket back to the UK and you will have to purchase a full-price ticket on a scheduled flight.

**India:** Do book a hotel room

prior to arrival. Tourists are advised to book at least their first night's accommodation before arrival in India. Those without somewhere to stay can fall prey to rogue taxi and rickshaw drivers who offer to take them to a hotel. Unwitting victims have been attacked and robbed.

**Singapore:** Don't get involved with drugs. Drug abuse carries the heaviest penalties. The death penalty is mandatory for some offences. Persons using prescribed drugs are therefore advised to carry a prescription or an explanatory note from their doctor or hospital.

**Thailand:** Don't use a guide who approaches you on the street, even if he appears to have genuine credentials. He will invariably be a tout.

**Turkey:** Do respect local laws and customs. It is an offence to insult the Turkish nation or the national flag, or to deface or tear up currency. Drunkenness is no excuse (and may be an offence in itself).

**United States:** Don't leave parking or other fines unpaid. An arrest warrant could spoil your next visit to the US and being arrested in the US can be a very degrading experience.

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**A**n old friend has been hanging on to me about the resort of Gressoney for almost two years. Why haven't I been there?

Don't I know how good the off-piste skiing is in the Monte Rosa area, particularly in the huge bowl of the Alagna valley? Wouldn't I enjoy staying in an Italian village with great food and friendly locals? I haven't made it to Gressoney yet, but now I have no excuse. Because my friend - his name is John Kavanagh - has set up a holiday company with a business partner to organise bespoke trips to the resort. He reckons that if he likes it, other skiers will, too.

Taking a friendly interest in John's venture, called Gressonly, I spoke to a handful of small, specialist ski operators to discover the potential and the pitfalls of launching such a company. Jim Thorpe's views on the subject were not encouraging. His Snowman company organises trips to the 24-bedroom hotel he has owned for a dozen years in St Germain, near (and linked with) the Mégeve ski area in France. "It is not easy to make a profit out of skiing," he says, adding that "there are a number of businesses that are bedevilled by enthusiasts, and skiing is definitely one of them."

Yet surprisingly few of my sample companies were born out of sheer enthusiasm, nor inspired by the notion that what we want, other skiers will also want; one was even started by a man who had never skied. But Ski Famille, which for eight years has provided packages to Les Gets for skiers with young children, proved an exception. Steve Sharp and his wife, who run the company, were keen skiers, but "then the kids came along, and we went through the routine of trying to combine skiing with small children - one year we took the mother-in-law, the next we tried using a local crèche".

A better solution, they figured, would be a ski operator offering well-equipped chalets, day-care for smaller children and skiing tuition for the four- and five-year-olds: hence Ski Famille. Sharp started the company with the confidence that "we knew what parents wanted. For example, rather than lugging packs of nappies and a steriliser with them, they just wanted to take a couple of feeding bottles along."

The fact that he and his business partner run a news agency in Cambridge enabled him to survive. "The first two years were difficult. But then we started to make headway, and ultimately to have the luxury of



Care for children can be a problem on a skiing holiday - unless you go with a specialist company

John Wood

## Break into snow business

Setting up a specialist ski company is far from child's play, as Stephen Wood finds out

letting demand push us along." Ski Famille now has four full-time members of staff, and will take 1,500 people skiing this year, but 90 per cent of its capacity is already sold.

For a specialist operator, finding a niche is essential to success. Ski Famille did that; Classic Ski was lucky enough to have a ready-made market. Classic Ski took over a market from the more explicitly named Over The Hill, which ceased operating four years ago, and it

offers "skiing holidays for the mature adventurer": the clients it takes to Flaine and three other French resorts are, on average, in their late 50s, "although we had a 79-year-old last year, and we've had several beginners in their 70s," says the company's owner, David Griffiths.

Employing the same instructor as Over The Hill - and thus forming a bridge with the defunct company's clients - Griffiths set up a programme designed for older skiers,

using quiet resorts in quiet periods (Classic Ski does not operate in February, when the slopes and the ski instructors are particularly busy), offering small-group tuition, and booking clients on to hassle-free midweek scheduled flights. After three years, the programme now attracts 180 skiers per season, having started from a very low base.

If spotting a market is essential, getting through the first season is critical. Louis Fernandes knows

this better than most: the up-market JL Catred Chalets company which he launched last year - with a stunning brochure - ceased trading even before the season began. Despite a year of planning (and three years' experience in the ski business), Fernandes' company folded in November when his bank withdrew a £58,000 overdraft facility. JL's business plan had proved to be inaccurate - by a factor of 0.25 per cent. "We were £77 out," says Fer-

nandes, "and the bank decided that consumer confidence did not warrant their investing in the company."

In the light of his experience, Fernandes offered the following advice for anyone wanting to start a specialist ski company. "Make sure you have enough backing to cover the first year's turnover, then plan, plan and plan - down to every last detail. Be wary of advertising salesmen: just because they're offering their best deal doesn't mean that it's a

good deal. And you've got to understand your market, because the fact that "you think something's a good idea doesn't mean that everyone else will agree."

Did MasterSki, the most successful of all the companies to which I spoke, abide by such rules? Hardly: it was started by a man who could not ski and did not know the market (though he had the wit to take advice from an expert); and almost the first thing the company did was to advertise. For 15 years, MasterSki has been running skiing packages for Christians, and it consistently sells 1,500 or more holidays a year. Its origins lie in a reader offer placed in the Christian magazines published by Bob Fleming, who runs MasterSki and MasterSun with his wife, Jill, plus a full-time staff of 25. "We quite quickly realised that the holidays were a much better business than publishing the magazines," he says.

MasterSki's holidays include a daily meeting, for worship and Bible study; unlike the company's summer holidays, which (in Fleming's words) attract everyone "from raging charismatics to high Anglicans", the skiing groups are more homogenous, in age and spiritual outlook. Nevertheless, Fleming advises the Christian leaders on each holiday not to be confrontational, "and don't ask them to dance".

All the holidays are based in the same hotel (in Tignes) and chalet (in Méribel), but Fleming believes that the resorts are big enough to provide continuing interest for his company's very loyal clientele.

The specialist companies do not seem to share the big operators' preoccupation with offering customers new destinations. For Jim Thorpe of Snowman, having a single resort is like having a holiday home: "It doesn't suit everyone, but some people like returning to favourite bars or runs, and being with people who remember them from last year." That's good news for my friend, John - as is the market analysis of a consultant used by MasterSki, who reckons that of all specialist ski companies, one-third make a profit, one-third want to enjoy it and don't worry too much about profits, while one-third merely make a loss. If Gressonly can get into the "enjoyment" band, John will be more than happy.

Gressonly 0181-287 6394; [www.gressonly.co.uk](http://www.gressonly.co.uk); Snowman 01989 770766; Ski Famille 01223 263777/568224; [www.f-holidaystore.co.uk/ski-famille](http://www.f-holidaystore.co.uk/ski-famille); Classic Ski 01590 623400; MasterSki 0181-942 9442

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THREE ACES doesn't make for a good hand when you are flying. The winner of this column's annual table of tardiness is the Colombian airline Aces. Of the 78 flights I took in 1998, the three with Aces averaged two hours late. But at least these planes got me between Bogota and Medellin eventually.

There are two broad schools of thought about aviation: one holds that flying remains a miracle, and we should be grateful to complete our journeys safely; the other maintains that by the end of the 20th century, travellers ought to be able to rely on the schedules with which airlines entice us to fly. I incline to the latter view, which is why this statistically insignificant survey is an annual event.

Three of the tardiest four airlines in 1998 are based in Latin America: only 10 minutes more punctual than Aces, on average, was Cubana, which escaped last place in the 1997 survey on a technicality (at least two flights must be taken on an airline during the year for it

to register). Avianca of Colombia averaged 45 minutes late; it also had the slowest return of baggage, 75 minutes, but this was not the fault of the airline - all the luggage from the flight arriving at Heathrow from Bogota is taken to a corner of the airport to be examined by customs.

Among British airlines, Debonair was way behind with an average delay of 95 minutes. Meanwhile, the year's new airline, Go, a offshoot of British Airways, managed to average five minutes early. British Airways itself

sold me the largest number of tickets: 12. BA's punctuality improved from 13 minutes last year to just five this year - a result, perhaps, of its £35m campaign to improve timekeeping. Better still, Iberia managed to improve on its creditable on-time performance for 1997: in the past year the Spanish airline averaged two minutes early.

Late - but better than the average 21 minute delay - were (in declining order) Lufthansa, Thai, Alitalia, Continental, Cathay Pacific, KLM UK and Qantas. Worse than average were Tunis Air, Air France, easyJet, Olympic of Greece and Virgin Express. These last two airlines actually provided more stress than all the rest put together, and the average delay on each of 30 minutes conceals a catalogue of chronic inexactitude.

The reason is that in a possibly misguided spirit of generosity, if for some reason I failed to travel on a flight altogether, it does not register in the survey. On Olympic, I hung around at

the airport for a couple of hours before a flight was cancelled, and the next service got me to my destination 14 hours later than originally scheduled. Lufthansa and Cubana both ejected me from flights (fortunately in advance) because they had overbooked. With British Airways and Virgin Express, I voluntarily abandoned flights when the length of the delay made the journey futile.

Finally, a few special awards: the best ground-handling was by Aer Lingus at Heathrow, which managed to cope with both Virgin Express and Olympic Airways with aplomb and good humour. Fastest formalities were on Continental in Tampa. I managed to get from buying a ticket to airborne in 13 minutes flat. And the "free freight" award goes to Virgin Express, which on no fewer than three occasions sent my bicycle as luggage on flights on which I was not travelling; the bike consequently travelled rather further than I did last year.

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AUSTRIA							
Ischgl	100%	Gr mid station	15	70	23.12	1C	Unsettled
Kitzbühel	95%	V gd high levels	15	65	24.12	-1C	Unsettled
BULGARIA							
Borovets	100%	Great conditions	40	60	25.12	-3C	Cloudy
CANADA							
Whistler	100%	Fresh snow	200	225	30.12	-6C	Flurries
FRANCE							
La G. Bernard	90%	Gr at high levels	30	75	24.12	-1C	Cloudy
Meribel	98%	Upper runs gd	35	100	24.12	-1C	Changeable
ITALY							
Cervinia	80%	Packed powder	10	130	20.12	10C	Bright
NORWAY							
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SWITZERLAND							
Murren	100%	Best on upper runs	30	70	24.12	4C	Cloudy
UNITED STATES							
Steamboat	50%	Packed snow	60	65	28.12	-7C	Broken cl

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# Build a bridge to heaven

Gandhi was born near Porbandar's boatyard, where Kenneth Wilson met a hundred eager pilgrims

On any normal reckoning, the western borders of the Indian state of Gujarat might seem benighted. The flat land of scrub and salt marsh has a single natural resource - wind. According to the season it blows warm and wet from the sea, or scorching and dry from the desert.

Yet the town of Porbandar here is a place of special significance: in 1869 it was the birthplace of the future Mahatma Gandhi. His house is now a minor pilgrimage site. Set on an ordinary street, it would be indistinguishable from all the others, except that an admirer bought up the surrounding square and demolished the other houses to build a temple.

Today, the house itself is empty. There is only a picture of the great man, and another of his parents, and a swastika set into the floor in the front room to mark the exact point of Gandhi's entry into the world. This isn't "heritage" - there is no

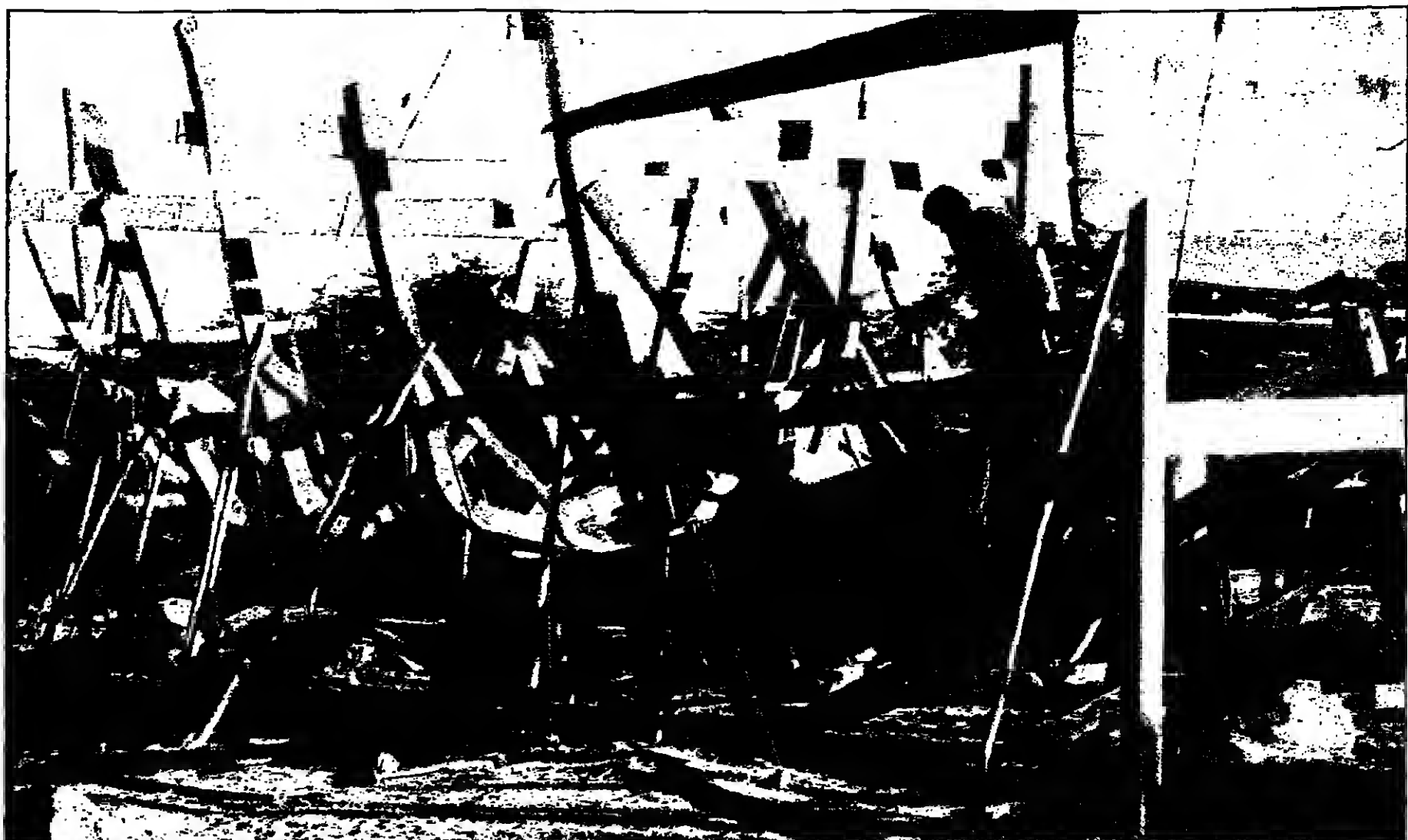
sense of wanting to recreate the great man's dwelling. All that is important is to have it clearly identified as holy.

At the top of the house is a cupboard where, you are told, the young Gandhi with big ears sat down earnestly to study.

Porbandar itself is a fishing town. It has two ports, adjacent to each other. In one, a thousand fishing boats, all built to the same ancient design, lie in appearance of idleness. Here and there a few boxes of under-sized silver fish were unloaded as I paused to watch. Gutting them is a smelly process; they are then spread out to dry.

The other port, surrounded by military security - though it was the bureaucracy that was more effective at keeping us out - contained two ships. There was a magnificent coal ship of enormous proportions, and a gleaming white gunboat - and vast, empty warehouses.

It is a very long time since Porbandar was a major point of entry for trade with Arabia, but presum-



Porbandar's boat-building yard reflects the town's former importance as a port

Kenneth Wilson

ably there is still a certain amount of smuggling along the old routes.

Back in town, we passed a row of decrepit taxis - though each had its sleeping driver - and drove on to the Sudamaji temple, where I witnessed a strange sight: one hundred Rajastani pilgrims who had each paid \$50 for a month's pilgrimage in an old hut. Their merit was being determined by the number of holy sites and offerings they could chalk up, so they had set themselves a cruel pace. After a week they were already looking tired.

They did not go into Gandhi's house, but only touched the feet of his image in the adjoining temple before hurrying off again. For them, Gandhi is a figure of little value. They were more interested in Lord Krishna, whose legends fill this area.

The Sudamaji temple has a miniature stone maze, its alleyways just large enough to put one foot in front of the other. Like bees on a honeycomb, the hundred pilgrims jostled their way around the maze, periodically falling over in their haste. Their purjari urged them on

shouting "Jaldi! Jaldi!" - "quickly, quickly". I asked him what it was all about, but he would not be interrupted. Instead, he thrust a plan into my hands and I tried to decipher the misprinted text. Ah, this was not a maze but a complicated mandala whose form allowed us to perform 8.4 million parikramas, or sacred circumambulations, as we traced its route round the central swastika. The same number of sins could be forgiven thuswise, it proclaimed.

And as quickly as they had descended, the pilgrims were gone. Off

to Dwarka, along the coast, a holier town where limitless merit can be acquired by those who know how.

Porbandar reverted to its quiet and normal demeanour, an Indian town of no apparent distinction, where no drama occurs worse than a bullock and a bicycle trying unsuccessfully to occupy the same piece of road at the same time. Only under its surface seethes this extraordinary spiritual secret, that out of this narrow and provincial backwater emerged a man who went on to change a continent.

You need time and patience to reach Porbandar. From Britain, the most convenient gateway is Mumbai (Bombay), from where Porbandar can be reached in 24 hours by train via Ahmedabad, the Gujarat state capital. Flights to Mumbai are a good buy at the moment. Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322) has a return fare of £315 return, including taxes, on Swissair from Heathrow, if you book before 15 January. Trailfinders (0171-938 3366) has seats on Lufthansa for £330, also including taxes.

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## THURSDAY TELEVISION

## BBC1

- 8.00 Business Breakfast** (29688). 7.00 News (T) (45687). 9.00 Kroy (S) (T) (830533). 9.45 The Vanessa Show (S) (T) (537633). 10.35 News (T) (779397). 11.05 Real Rooms (S) (772674). 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (T) (759533). 11.55 News (T) (455129). 12.00 Call My Bluff (S) (76736). 12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (S) (T) (45623). 1.00 News (T) (45674). 1.40 Regional News (S) (830533). 2.05 Neighbours (S) (T) (535564). 2.55 Going for a Song (S) (783878). 3.20 The Weather Show (S) (T) (223219).
- 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays** (R) (S) (812638). 3.45 The Littlest Pet Shop (S) (826281). 3.55 Pocket Dragon Adventures (S) (T) (823446). 4.05 Rugrats (S) (T) (819153). 4.20 Home Farm Twins (S) (T) (895465). 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (552214). 5.30 See How They Run (S) (T) (672649).
- 5.35 Neighbours** (S) (T) (274397).
- 6.00 News; Weather** (T) (129).
- 6.30 Regional News** (T) (281).
- 7.00 Watchdog** (S) (T) (216).
- 7.30 EastEnders** (S) (T) (465).
- 8.00 Vets in Practice**. The new series starts with a crisis for Trude (S) (T) (4736).
- 8.30 Fat Free**. Six-part documentary exploring the nation's obsession with food, diet and body image (S) (T) (657).
- 9.00 News; Weather** (T) (397).
- 9.30 CHOICE: Braveheart** (1995). Mel Gibson stars as the Scottish warrior William Wallace. See Choice, below (S) (T) (788720).
- 12.20 Faces of Islam** (S) (899137).
- 12.40 FILM: A Professional Gun** (1970). Spaghetti western (892953).
- 2.25 BBC News 24** (895385). 5.40 Faces of Islam (S) (894088). To 6am.

## BBC2

- 7.00 Children's BBC: Open a Door** (R) (565889). 7.05 Teletubbies (S) (210568). 7.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (R) (248755). 7.50 Blue Peter (S) (T) (305362). 8.20 Taz-Mania (S) (802820). 8.40 Puka Dot Shorts (826705). 8.55 Open a Door (R) (548284). 9.00 Fiddle Fiddle Bird (730685). 9.30 The Phil Sivers Show (R) (838465). 9.35 The Phil Sivers Show (R) (838465). 10.00 Teletubbies (S) (29007).
- 10.30 FILM: Cervantes** (1987). Historical biopic drama (55842).
- 12.30 Working Lunch** (82282). 1.00 Fiddle Fiddle Bird (R) (S) (738437). 1.30 The Arts and Crafts Hour (S) (265882).
- 2.40 World Darts**. Action from yesterday's second-round matches (S) (251346).
- 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine**. Sci-fi drama series (S) (T) (276587).
- 6.45 Sliders**. Sci-fi drama (S) (T) (670674).
- 7.30 First Sight** (197).
- 8.00 The Travel Show**. Just Morris explores Great Britain (S) (2378).
- 8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines** (R) (S) (T) (4113).
- 9.00 Meet the Ancestors**. Archaeologist Julian Richards investigates an Anglo-Saxon warrior's grave found at the United States Air Base at Lakenheath in Suffolk (S) (8939).
- 9.30 Fat Files**. Documentary examining the phenomenon of dieting and staying slim. Scientists discuss the common-held belief that faults in chemicals in the brains of children who have become obese can explain why some of us are born to be fat (S) (T) (23045).
- 10.20 Meetings with Remarkable Trees** (R) (S) (33602).
- 10.30 Newsnight** (T) (978623).
- 11.15 World Darts** (S) (76026). 12.00 Phil Sivers Show (R) (85779). To 12.30am.

## ITV Granada

- 6.00 GMTV** (603585). 9.25 Trisha (247484). 10.25 This Morning (627175). 12.20 Granada News (614755). 12.30 News (52216). 1.00 Home and Away (60842). 1.30 Jerry Springer (188910). 2.15 Emmerdale (63484). 2.45 Supermarket Sweep (82755). 3.15 News (217484). 3.20 Granada News (214397).
- 3.25 Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop** (T) (217620). 3.35 The Adventures of Dawdle (S) (869842). 3.45 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (T) (867378). 4.00 Lavender Castle (T) (819448). 4.35 Dexter's Laboratory (T) (878882). 4.40 Worst Witch (S) (T) (727055). 5.40 Home and Away (S) (T) (359194). 5.40 News (T) (24587).
- 5.55 Granada Tonight** (R) (854216). 5.50 Live Challenge 99 Update (896855).
- 7.00 Emmerdale** (S) (T) (3484).
- 7.30 The Crazy World of Joe Pasquale**. Comedy (S) (T) (533).
- 8.00 Who Wants to be a Millionaire?** Quiz show (S) (T) (8804).
- 8.30 Neighbours from Hell** (T) (8939).
- 9.00 The Knack**. Drama about Customs investigators returns for a six-part series. A new chief, David Anon, played by Mark Lewis, quickly wins a reputation for being tough and arrogant (S) (T) (7129).
- 10.00 News; Weather** (T) (22533).
- 10.30 Granada News** (T) (275736).
- 10.40 Thursday Night Live** (756720).
- 12.10 Public Morals** (S) (589088). 12.45 Jerry Springer (782335). 1.30 First TV (S) (7872). 2.00 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (S) (814934). 2.20 ITV at the Belfast Festival (822777). 3.15 Cybernet (8234804). 3.40 Forti about Pats (1445724). 4.00 Soundtrack (R) (S) (808508). 4.20 Nightscreen (833431). 5.30 Morning News (83934). To 6am.

## Channel 4

- 6.00 Sesame Street** (2376). 7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (65397). 9.00 The Cosby Show (R) (T) (286715).
- 9.35 FILM: The House on Telegraph Hill** (1951). Creepy melodrama, with Valentina Cortese (T) (4434820).
- 11.15 Roots to Success** (855842). 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (6201). 12.00 Sesame Street (2574). 12.30 Switched (50858). 1.00 Pet Rescue (89484).
- 1.30 FILM: Untamed** (1955). Colonial adventure starring Tyrone Power and Susan Hayward (T) (53216).
- 3.30 The Hampton Court Palace** (T) (755). 4.00 Fifteen to One (S) (T) (623). 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (888904). 4.55 Ricki Lake (S) (T) (890282).
- 5.30 Pet Rescue** (S) (T) (245).
- 6.00 Dishes**. New game show mixing cookery and romance (T) (839).
- 6.30 Hollyoaks** (S) (T) (891).
- 7.00 News; Weather** (S) (T) (475736).
- 7.55 Cuban Fences** (S) (8455).
- 8.00 Secret History** (R) (S) (T) (2007).
- 9.00 Disappearance**. Examining the growing problem of domestic violence (T) (571).
- 10.00 Rising Damp** (R) (T) (26303).
- 10.30 Cold Turkey**. Documentary focusing on one of the great seasonal institutions - the office Christmas party (25720).
- 11.05 Alf McBeal** (R) (S) (T) (85122). 12.00 Oz (S) (79172). 1.05 Vice (84431). 1.40 Tableau d'Amour (R) (8354243). 1.45 For the Love of Faith (709553).
- 2.45 The Connors** (700717).
- 3.40 FILM: The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit** (1956). Gregory Peck stars in this film soap (714208).
- 5.35 The Pink Panther Show** (737608). To 6am.

## Channel 5

- 6.00 5 News and Sport** (S) (708813). 7.00 WideWorld (T) (836216). 7.30 Michael (S) (285179). 7.35 Wintzoo's House (R) (996728). 8.00 Hawkzoo (R) (S) (227620). 8.30 Dappledown Farm (122891). 9.00 Animal House (290330). 9.25 Postcards (832858). 9.30 Oprah Winfrey (886465). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (228419). 11.00 Leeza (R) (S) (217939). 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (237007). 12.30 Family Affairs (S) (T) (800376). 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (832557). 1.30 The Roseanne Show (900207). 2.00 100 Per Cent (S) (842307). 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (41557).
- 3.30 FILM: 92 Grosvenor Street** (1955). Second World War adventure (879822).
- 5.20 Sunset Beach** (828897).
- 6.00 100 Per Cent** (S) (547216).
- 6.30 Family Affairs**. Chris makes the big announcement that he and Annie are getting divorced (S) (T) (537568).
- 7.00 5 News** (S) (T) (647823).
- 7.30 Champions of the Wild**. Profile of a conservationist whose ranch in Kenya is home to more than a hundred black and white rhinos (S) (T) (536452).
- 8.00 Survivor**. Real-life story of how a group became lost in the sands of the Sahara (R) (S) (T) (595820).
- 9.00 FILM: The Ultimate Life** (1998). Kristin Davis stars as the rebellious teenage daughter of law-school dean Michael Murphy in this melodrama with Michael Brown. (S) (T) (5230804).
- 10.40 Sex and Shopping**. The series about porn around the world tackles the boom in amateur porn movies (S) (357523).
- 11.10 The Jack Docherty Show** (S) (812820). 11.50 Live and Dangerous (838200). 12.30 Live and Dangerous (S) (761433). 1.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (R) (S) (390808). 5.30 100 Per Cent (835636). To 6am.

## ITV/Regions

- Anglia**  
An Evening with... 8.20 Anglia News (895385). 8.30 Anglia News (895385). 8.40 Anglia News (895385). 8.50 Anglia News (895385). 9.00 Anglia News (895385). 9.10 Anglia News (895385). 9.20 Anglia News (895385). 9.30 Anglia News (895385). 9.40 Anglia News (895385). 9.50 Anglia News (895385). 10.00 Anglia News (895385). 10.10 Anglia News (895385). 10.20 Anglia News (895385). 10.30 Anglia News (895385). 10.40 Anglia News (895385). 10.50 Anglia News (895385). 11.00 Anglia News (895385). 11.10 Anglia News (895385). 11.20 Anglia News (895385). 11.30 Anglia News (895385). 11.40 Anglia News (895385). 11.50 Anglia News (895385). 12.00 Anglia News (895385). 12.10 Anglia News (895385). 12.20 Anglia News (895385). 12.30 Anglia News (895385). 12.40 Anglia News (895385). 12.50 Anglia News (895385). 1.00 Anglia News (895385). 1.10 Anglia News (895385). 1.20 Anglia News (895385). 1.30 Anglia News (895385). 1.40 Anglia News (895385). 1.50 Anglia News (895385). 2.00 Anglia News (895385). 2.10 Anglia News 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# TUESDAY TELEVISION

## ITV/Regions

### BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (83650), 7.00 News (T) (86679), 9.00 Kilroy (S) (T) (83678), 9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (83685), 10.55 News (T) (83685), 11.00 Real Rooms (S) (726230), 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (726389), 11.55 News (T) (83685), 12.00 Call My Bluff (S) (726389), 12.30 Battersea Dogs Home (S) (726389), 1.00 News (T) (83685), 1.30 Regional News (836938), 1.40 Neighbours (S) (726389), 2.05 Inside (S) (726389), 2.25 Going for a Song (S) (867834), 3.20 The Weather Show (S) (726389).
- 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays** (R) (S) (836714), 3.45 The Enchanted Lands (R) (S) (836714), 3.55 Hubbub (S) (836714), 4.30 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (S) (836714), 4.35 The Really Wild Show (S) (836714), 5.00 Newsround (S) (726389), 5.30 See How They Run (S) (836714).
- 5.35 Neighbours** (S) (726389).
- 6.00 News; Weather** (T) (83685).
- 6.30 Regional News** (T) (83685).
- 7.00 Holiday** (S) (1056).
- 7.30 EastEnders** (S) (T) (105).
- 9.00 CHOICE: Weight of the Nation.** Dale Winton launches the BBC's 'Fighting Fat, Fighting Fit' campaign. See Choice, below (S) (7347).
- 9.00 News; Weather** (T) (83685).
- 9.30 Paddington Green** (S) (T) (83685).
- 10.00 The New Year Storms - a 999 Special** (S) (2267).
- 10.40 Crystal Balls** (S) (13650).
- 11.20 FILM: Seduced by Evil** (1994). Barel mystery with Suzanne Somers (S) (836308).
- 12.45 FILM: Death of a Cheerleader** (1994). True-life tele-drama with Kelli Martin (S) (836308).
- 2.15 Joins BBC News 24** (7855986). To Barn.

### BBC2

- 7.00 The Little Polar Bear** (R) (S) (234022), 7.05 Teletubbies (S) (234022), 7.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (R) (S) (234022), 7.50 Blue Peter (S) (234022), 8.20 Taz-Mania (S) (234022), 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (S) (234022), 8.50 The Little Polar Bear (R) (S) (234022), 9.00 Oakie Doke (736244), 9.30 The Phil Sippers Show (736792), 9.35 The Phil Sippers Show (S) (736792), 10.00 Teletubbies (S) (234022).
- 10.30 FILM: Monsieur Verdoux** (1947). Charlie Chaplin as a wife-killer in a bold mix of pathos and cynicism (T) (83650).
- 12.30 Working Lunch** (83634), 1.00 Oakie Doke (R) (S) (736792), 1.30 The Arts and Crafts Hour (S) (736792), 2.30 World Darts (S) (836308).
- 5.30 Cricket - the Ashes** (S) (83685).
- 6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air** (104698).
- 6.20 Heartbreak High** (S) (T) (83685).
- 7.30 The O Zone** (S) (83685).
- 7.30 From the Edge** (S) (T) (747).
- 8.00 University Challenge** (S) (T) (5018).
- 8.30 Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey.** Stein celebrates the seafood of Naples, tries cod with cabbage and beer in Southwold and finds fresh brown shrimps in the River Thames. First of a new series (S) (T) (7833).
- 9.00 Morecambe and Wise.** More memories of Eric and Ernie in the early days of their great comedy partnership (R) (T) (83685).
- 9.30 Great Railway Journeys.** Ian Hislop discovers India by travelling by rail from Calcutta, the former capital of the British Raj, to the romantic desert forts of Rajasthan (S) (83685).
- 10.20 Trade Secrets II** (R) (S) (83685).
- 10.30 Newsnight** (T) (83685).
- 11.15 World Darts** (S) (836308), 12.00 The Phil Sippers Show (R) (736792). To 12.30am.

### ITV Granada

- 6.00 GMTV** (60144), 9.25 Trisha (S) (T) (236940), 10.25 This Morning (T) (236940), 12.30 Granada News (T) (836721), 12.30 News (T) (236940), 1.00 Home and Away (S) (T) (2434), 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (2434), 2.15 Coronation Street (R) (T) (222080), 2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (21679), 3.15 News Headlines (T) (226940), 3.20 Granada News (T) (226940).
- 3.25 Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop** (T) (236940), 3.35 Pops and Jim (S) (83685), 3.50 The Wombles (S) (83685), 4.00 Cow and Chicken (S) (83685), 4.25 Mike and Angelo (S) (T) (774132), 4.50 How I (S) (T) (948124), 5.40 Home and Away (S) (T) (836792), 5.40 News; Weather (T) (83685).
- 5.55 Granada Tonight** (T) (836785).
- 7.00 Emmerdale** (S) (T) (83685).
- 7.30 Who Wants to be a Millionaire?** Quiz show (S) (T) (501).
- 8.00 The Bill** (T) (1143).
- 9.00 Peak Practice.** The Beeches surgery goes again with a new face - Joanne Graham (Haydn Gwynne). She joins in time to help Dr Atwood (Gary Mavers) in a battle to save a friend's life after a car smash (S) (T) (83685).
- 10.00 News; Weather** (T) (26143).
- 10.30 Granada News** (T) (83685).
- 10.40 Full Frontal in Flip Flops.** A variety of British national expose their lifestyles (S) (T) (836308).
- 11.40 FILM: The China Syndrome** (1979). Reporter Jane Fonda sniffs a scoop when she meets twirly nuclear plant worker Jack Lemmon (T) (836308).
- 2.05 The Haunted Fishbowl** (836341), 2.30 Highlander (T) (836341), 3.20 Wish You Were Here... (S) (T) (836341), 3.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (836709), 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (836099), 5.30 Morning News (836744). To Barn.

### Channel 4

- 7.00 The Big Breakfast** (S) (236940), 9.00 The Cosby Show (R) (T) (578227).
- 9.35 FILM: Phone Call from a Stranger** (1952). Corried tale (T) (44482056).
- 11.15 Earthscope** (R) (83685), 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (R) (S) (T) (83685), 12.00 Sesame Street (23056), 12.30 Bewitched (R) (83685), 1.00 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (22476), 1.30 Roots to Success (836897).
- 1.50 FILM: The Fallen Idol** (1948). Ralph Richardson as a butler idolised by an ambassador's son (T) (836392).
- 3.30 The Hampton Court Palace** (T) (83685), 4.00 Fifteen to One (R) (S) (T) (230), 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (83685), 4.55 Ricki Lake (S) (T) (403601), 5.30 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (786).
- 6.00 King of the Hill** (R) (S) (T) (83685).
- 6.30 Home Improvement** (T) (259).
- 7.00 News; Weather** (S) (T) (337360), 7.55 Cuban Faces (836840).
- 8.00 Brookside** (S) (T) (344).
- 8.30 Classic Aircraft** (T) (232).
- 9.00 Cutting Edge** (R) (S) (83685).
- 10.00 Father Ted** (R) (S) (T) (24785), 10.30 Bob and Margaret (83685), 11.00 Trial and Error (S) (T) (83685).
- 12.00 FILM: Women and Men Three** (1994). A comedy about three women. Classic tele-compendium (T) (83685).
- 1.35 FILM: Double Entente.** Erotic drama (83685).
- 1.50 FILM: The Pleasure Seekers** (1964). Ann-Margret sings in this remake of Three Coins in the Fountain (83685).
- 3.50 Whispers.** Film short (R) (S) (83685).
- 4.15 FILM: Lady Godiva Rides Again** (1951). Mid-century melodrama (83685), 5.55 Sesame Street (83685). To 7am.

### Channel 5

- 6.00 5 News and Sport** (S) (704969), 7.00 WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (83685), 7.30 Milkshake! (S) (236940), 7.55 Winkles House (R) (836785), 8.00 Havalakoo (R) (S) (1363476), 8.30 Dappledown Farm (136247), 9.00 Weather Front (R) (S) (T) (136327), 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (83685), 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (236940), 11.00 Lezza (R) (S) (220495), 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (83685), 12.30 Family Affairs (S) (T) (83685), 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (83685), 1.30 The Roseanne Show (83685), 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (83685), 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (83685).
- 3.30 FILM: A Brother's Promise: the Dan Jansen Story** (1998). Matt Keesler plays a speed skater in this true-life drama (S) (T) (83685).
- 5.20 Sunset Beach** (83685).
- 6.00 100 Per Cent** (S) (543872).
- 6.30 Family Affairs** (S) (540424).
- 7.00 5 News** (S) (T) (83685).
- 7.30 Champions of the Wild.** Story of a woman who has devoted much of her life to studying elephants (S) (T) (540030).
- 8.00 Survivor.** Tale of a 17-year-old girl who escaped from a blazing plane in the Peruvian jungle (R) (S) (T) (573478).
- 9.00 FILM: Sweet Temptation.** Erotic drama in which a teenage girl's world is torn apart after she has a night of passion with her mother's young boyfriend. With Beverly D'Angelo, Rob Estes (T) (250330).
- 10.50 Two.** Start of a psychological thriller about a young professor who 'loses' an hour of his life and then sees his hands caked with blood (83685).
- 11.45 The Jack Docherty Show** (S) (83685), 12.25 Live and Dangerous (S) (83685), 1.05 Live and Dangerous (S) (83685), 1.45 Asian Football Show (S) (777457), 2.40 Prisoner, Cell Block H (S) (22476), 3.30 100 Per Cent (R) (S) (22476). To Barn.

### ITV/Regions

- Anglia**  
As Granada except: 6.00 Anglia News and Weather (83685), 6.30 Anglia News (83685), 7.00 The Jerry Springer Show (83685), 7.30 Anglia News (83685), 8.00 Anglia News (83685), 8.30 Anglia News (83685), 9.00 Anglia News (83685), 9.30 Anglia News (83685), 10.00 Anglia News (83685), 10.30 Anglia News (83685), 11.00 Anglia News (83685), 11.30 Anglia News (83685), 12.00 Anglia News (83685), 12.30 Anglia News (83685), 1.00 Anglia News (83685), 1.30 Anglia News (83685), 2.00 Anglia News (83685), 2.30 Anglia News (83685), 3.00 Anglia News (83685), 3.30 Anglia News (83685), 4.00 Anglia News (83685), 4.30 Anglia News (83685), 5.00 Anglia News (83685), 5.30 Anglia News (83685), 6.00 Anglia News (83685).
- BBC**  
As Granada except: 6.00 BBC News and Weather (83685), 6.30 BBC News (83685), 7.00 The Jerry Springer Show (83685), 7.30 BBC News (83685), 8.00 BBC News (83685), 8.30 BBC News (83685), 9.00 BBC News (83685), 9.30 BBC News (83685), 10.00 BBC News (83685), 10.30 BBC News (83685), 11.00 BBC News (83685), 11.30 BBC News (83685), 12.00 BBC News (83685), 12.30 BBC News (83685), 1.00 BBC News (83685), 1.30 BBC News (83685), 2.00 BBC News (83685), 2.30 BBC News (83685), 3.00 BBC News (83685), 3.30 BBC News (83685), 4.00 BBC News (83685), 4.30 BBC News (83685), 5.00 BBC News (83685), 5.30 BBC News (83685), 6.00 BBC News (83685).
- Central**  
As Granada except: 6.00 Central News and Weather (83685), 6.30 Central News (83685), 7.00 The Jerry Springer Show (83685), 7.30 Central News (83685), 8.00 Central News (83685), 8.30 Central News (83685), 9.00 Central News (83685), 9.30 Central News (83685), 10.00 Central News (83685), 10.30 Central News (83685), 11.00 Central News (83685), 11.30 Central News (83685), 12.00 Central News (83685), 12.30 Central News (83685), 1.00 Central News (83685), 1.30 Central News (83685), 2.00 Central News (83685), 2.30 Central News (83685), 3.00 Central News (83685), 3.30 Central News (83685), 4.00 Central News (83685), 4.30 Central News (83685), 5.00 Central News (83685), 5.30 Central News (83685), 6.00 Central News (83685).
- ITV Wales**  
As Granada except: 6.00 ITV News and Weather (83685), 6.30 ITV News (83685), 7.00 The Jerry Springer Show (83685), 7.30 ITV News (83685), 8.00 ITV News (83685), 8.30 ITV News (83685), 9.00 ITV News (83685), 9.30 ITV News (83685), 10.00 ITV News (83685), 10.30 ITV News (83685), 11.00 ITV News (83685), 11.30 ITV News (83685), 12.00 ITV News (83685), 12.30 ITV News (83685), 1.00 ITV News (83685), 1.30 ITV News (83685), 2.00 ITV News (83685), 2.30 ITV News (83685), 3.00 ITV News (83685), 3.30 ITV News (83685), 4.00 ITV News (83685), 4.30 ITV News (83685), 5.00 ITV News (83685), 5.30 ITV News (83685), 6.00 ITV News (83685).
- ITV Yorkshire**  
As Granada except: 6.00 Yorkshire News and Weather (83685), 6.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 7.00 The Jerry Springer Show (83685), 7.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 8.00 Yorkshire News (83685), 8.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 9.00 Yorkshire News (83685), 9.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 10.00 Yorkshire News (83685), 10.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 11.00 Yorkshire News (83685), 11.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 12.00 Yorkshire News (83685), 12.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 1.00 Yorkshire News (83685), 1.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 2.00 Yorkshire News (83685), 2.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 3.00 Yorkshire News (83685), 3.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 4.00 Yorkshire News (83685), 4.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 5.00 Yorkshire News (83685), 5.30 Yorkshire News (83685), 6.00 Yorkshire News (83685).

## TUESDAY CHOICE

**DALE WINTON** launches "Fighting Fat, Fighting Fit". The BBC's dieting season, said to be the channel's biggest ever health campaign with *Weight of the Nation* (8pm BBC1, left). Here Winton oversees a team of "fat-busters", who tackle other people's weight problems. Five men from a social club committee in Birmingham who enjoy a diet of beer and buns own up to frequently losing the fight against fat. They realised they had to do something when club members "started calling us the Teletubbies". Good luck.



## SATELLITE & CABLE

- UK Gold**  
6.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 7.00 The Jerry Springer Show (83685), 7.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 8.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 8.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 9.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 9.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 10.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 10.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 11.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 11.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 12.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 12.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 1.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 1.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 2.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 2.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 3.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 3.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 4.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 4.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 5.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 5.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 6.00 Sports Unlimited (83685).
- UK Sky**  
6.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 7.00 The Jerry Springer Show (83685), 7.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 8.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 8.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 9.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 9.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 10.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 10.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 11.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 11.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 12.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 12.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 1.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 1.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 2.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 2.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 3.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 3.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 4.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 4.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 5.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 5.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 6.00 Sports Unlimited (83685).
- UK Sky Sports**  
6.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 7.00 The Jerry Springer Show (83685), 7.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 8.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 8.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 9.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 9.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 10.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 10.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 11.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 11.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 12.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 12.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 1.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 1.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 2.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 2.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 3.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 3.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 4.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 4.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 5.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 5.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 6.00 Sports Unlimited (83685).
- UK Sky Sports 2**  
6.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 7.00 The Jerry Springer Show (83685), 7.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 8.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 8.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 9.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 9.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 10.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 10.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 11.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 11.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 12.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 12.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 1.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 1.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 2.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 2.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 3.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 3.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 4.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 4.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 5.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 5.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 6.00 Sports Unlimited (83685).
- UK Sky Sports 3**  
6.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 7.00 The Jerry Springer Show (83685), 7.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 8.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 8.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 9.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 9.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 10.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 10.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 11.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 11.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 12.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 12.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 1.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 1.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 2.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 2.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 3.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 3.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 4.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 4.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 5.00 Sports Unlimited (83685), 5.30 Sports Unlimited (83685), 6.00 Sports Unlimited (83685).

# WEDNESDAY TELEVISION

## ITV/Regions

### BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (83650), 7.00 News (T) (83679), 9.00 Kilroy (S) (T) (83678), 9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (83685), 10.55 News (T) (83685), 11.00 Real Rooms (S) (726230), 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (726389), 11.55 News (T) (83685), 12.00 Call My Bluff (S) (726389), 12.30 Battersea Dogs Home (S) (726389), 1.00 News (T) (83685), 1.30 Regional News (836938), 1.40 Neighbours (S) (726389), 2.05 Inside (S) (726389), 2.25 Going for a Song (S) (867834), 3.20 The Weather Show (S) (726389).
- 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays** (R) (S) (836714), 3.45 The Enchanted Lands (R) (S) (836714), 3.55 Hubbub (S) (836714), 4.30 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (S) (836714), 4.35 The Really Wild Show (S) (836714), 5.00 Newsround (S) (726389), 5.30 See How They Run (S) (836714).
- 5.35 Neighbours** (S) (726389).
- 6.00 News; Weather** (T) (83685).
- 6.30 Regional News** (T) (83685).
- 7.00 Money for Old Rope** (S) (1306).
- 7.30 CHOICE: Dream House.** See Choice, below (S) (T) (235).
- 8.00 Changing Rooms** (S) (T) (83685).
- 8.30 Battersea Dogs Home** (S) (726389).
- 8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories** (S) (T) (83685).
- 9.00 News; Weather** (T) (83685).
- 9.30 The X Files** (S) (75344).
- 10.15 Jobs for the Boys** (S) (T) (83685).
- 11.30 FILM: Volcano: Fire on the Mountain** (1997). Sid resort sits on about-to-blow volcano (S) (83685).
- 1.15 FILM: The Cassandra Crossing** (1977). Hysterical disaster movie with Sophia Loren (T) (83685).
- 2.40 Joins BBC News 24** (2497026). To Barn.

### BBC2

- 7.00 Children's BBC: Dilly the Dinosaur** (R) (S) (734539), 7.05 Teletubbies (S) (234022), 7.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (R) (S) (234022), 7.50 The Really Wild Show (S) (836714), 8.20 Taz-Mania (S) (234022), 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (S) (234022), 8.50 The Little Polar Bear (R) (S) (234022), 9.00 Oakie Doke (736244), 9.30 The Phil Sippers Show (736792), 9.35 The Phil Sippers Show (S) (736792), 10.00 Teletubbies (S) (234022).
- 10.30 FILM: The Battle of Austerlitz** (1900). Historical drama. With Pierre Mondy (83685).
- 12.30 Working Lunch** (83634), 1.00 Brum (R) (736792), 1.30 The Arts and Crafts Hour (S) (736792), 2.30 World Darts (836798), 5.30 Cricket - the Ashes (S) (83685).
- 9.00 Star Trek - The Next Generation.** Sci-fi drama series (R) (S) (T) (83685).
- 6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer.** Teenage drama series (S) (T) (83685).
- 7.30 Tales from the Riverbank.** Natural history of angling (R) (S) (T) (83685).
- 8.00 Battle of the Sexes.** The story of sex in the animal kingdom (S) (T) (7438).
- 8.30 Home Front.** Tips on buying sofas, turning a drab dining room into a party room and creating the ultimate period bedroom (S) (T) (83685).
- 9.00 Red Dwarf VI.** Rimmer and the gang are forced to enter Krypton's electronic mindscape when he contracts a deadly computer virus (R) (S) (T) (7409).
- 9.30 Clockwatch.** Documentary about the Camforth dock (S) (T) (83685).
- 9.40 The Flow of Time.** Why does a watched kettle never boil? Why does time go faster when we're having fun? The answers are here (S) (83685).
- 10.20 Trade Secrets II** (R) (S) (83685).
- 10.30 Newsnight** (T) (83685).
- 11.15 World Darts** (S) (836308), 12.00 Phil Sippers Show (R) (736792). To 12.30am.

### ITV Granada

- 6.00 GMTV** (60144), 9.25 Trisha (S) (T) (236940), 10.25 This Morning (T) (236940), 12.30 Granada News (T) (836721), 12.30 News (T) (236940), 1.00 Home and Away (S) (T) (2434), 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (2434), 2.15 Coronation Street (R) (T) (222080), 2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (21679), 3.15 News Headlines (T) (226940), 3.20 Granada News (T) (226940).
- 3.25 Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop** (T) (236940), 3.35 Pops and Jim (S) (83685), 3.50 The Wombles (S) (83685), 4.00 Cow and Chicken (S) (83685), 4.25 Mike and Angelo (S) (T) (774132), 4.50 How I (S) (T) (948124), 5.40 Home and Away (S) (T) (836792), 5.40 News; Weather (T) (83685).
- 5.55 Granada Tonight** (T) (836785).
- 7.00 Emmerdale** (S) (T) (83685).
- 7.30 Coronation Street.** Audrey discovers the truth about Alf's insurance (T) (83685).
- 8.00 Who Wants to be a Millionaire?** Quiz show (S) (T) (501).
- 8.30 Police, Camera, Action!** Alastair Stewart shows the trial of a runaway coach on the M1 (T) (83685).
- 9.00 Survival Special.** Documentary following the life of a lioness in Nakuru National Park, Kenya (S) (T) (83685).
- 10.00 News; Weather** (T) (83685).
- 10.30 Granada News** (T) (83685).
- 10.40 FILM: Shining Through** (1992). War department secretary Melanie Griffith volunteers for undercover duty in Germany in this old-school melodrama. With Michael Douglas and Liam Neeson (T) (83685).
- 1.05 FILM: Strangers** (1981). Fast! Attraction! Australian-style. With James Healey, Anne Locky (73688).
- 2.45 Master Class** (R) (703033), 3.40 Club/Vision (R) (S) (83685), 3.50 Trisha (R) (S) (83685), 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (836099), 5.30 News (836744). To Barn.

### Channel 4

- 7.00 The Big Breakfast** (S) (236940), 9.00 The Cosby Show (R) (T) (578227).
- 9.30 FILM: 10 North Frederick** (1958). Gary Cooper in plodding soap (T) (83685).
- 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (R) (S) (T) (83685), 12.00 Sesame Street (23056), 12.30 Bewitched (R) (83685), 1.00 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (22476), 1.30 Roots to Success (836897).
- 1.50 FILM: Golden Girl** (1951). Mitz Gaynor belts out songs in musical biopic of Lotta Crabtree (T) (20425051).







# SATURDAY RADIO

## PICK OF THE DAY

AND THEY'RE OFF. The number of centennial round-ups scheduled for the year ahead on BBC radio will have you screaming for the oerst millennium. Although this is almost programming on autopilot, the musical potted histories, which are lined up should make for excellent beginners' guides. In the first part of the exhaustive Jazz Century (6pm R3), which

runs for 52 weeks, Russell Davies attempts to define jazz - as an expression of the American spirit. There's thinking of a less wishful kind later in The Brains Trust (10.15pm R3), the lofty discussion panel show chaired by Joan Bakewell (right), which this week features AS Byatt. A much-needed intellectual Alka Seltzer for the sore head.



DOMINIC CAVENTISH

sure of smoking cigars. He talks to cigar lovers and old-time rollers in Havana and visits some of the latter-day smoking dens and clubs in Britain. 7.50 Die Fledermaus, Act 2. Thor Eckert Jr puts listeners' questions to Stephan A Brown, David Hamilton and Richard Wotach. 9.35 Die Fledermaus, Act 3. 10.15 The Brains Trust. Joan Bakewell chairs the discussion programme, originally launched in 1941 on BBC Radio's Home Service, in which leading minds in the fields of art, science, religion and philosophy debate important intellectual issues. With novelist AS Byatt, historian Theodore Zeldin, mathematician Prof Ian Stewart, and theologian the Very Rev Tom Wright. See *Pick of the Day*. 11.00 Nobuko Imai. Works for viola, including the first performance of a piece by the Scottish composer David Horne, given in recital in 1995 at London's Wigmore Hall. Nobuko Imai (viola), Roger Vignoles (piano). Home: Stilled Voices (first performance). Maxwell Davies: The Door of the Sun. Takemitsu: A Bird Came Down the Walk. 11.30 Jazz on 3. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**RADIO 4** (92.4-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Sports Desk. 6.30 Open Country. 6.57 Weather.

**7.00 Today.** 9.00 Home Truths. 10.00 News; Double Vision. 11.00 News; The Food Programme. 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.00 News; Money Box. 12.30 News Quiz of the Year. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.15 Our Next Question Please? 2.00 What's in a Name? 2.30 Sir John Soane at Home. 3.00 News; The Saturday Play: The Big Bazookay. 4.00 News; Weekend Woman's Hour. 5.00 Saturday PM. 5.30 Talking Pictures. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Live from London. 6.30 News; Saturday Review. 7.45 My Grandmother's House. By Fergal Keane, the award-winning correspondent who touched the nation's heart with his Letter to Daniel recalls his early days, his family and the city of Cork where he was brought up. 8.00 The Archive Hour: Tomorrow at the Same Time. Author Jeffrey Robinson recalls radio programmes in the 30s. 9.00 News; The Classic Serial: Bleak House. By Charles Dickens, dramatised in five parts by John Dryden. 5: The chase is on for the murderer of Tullingham. Inspector Bucket sits through the

evidence then reveals all. Jamdyce and Jamdyce finally gets its judgement. Will the selfless orphan Esther Summerson and bankrupt newlyweds Ada and Richard get what they deserve? With Claire Price and Michael Kitchen. 10.00 News and Weather. 10.15 Then and Us. Diana Macil presents the first in a series of lively debates about the major issues of the day. 'Supermarkets have more power than is good for you.' Fruit grower Mark Giles and butcher Graham Hurley slug it out with Tony Combes from Safeways and economist Sean Rickard in front of an audience at Leominster, Worcestershire. 11.00 News; Scaling the Mountain. Robert Dawson Scott invites a performer or composer to revisit a major musical challenge. In this programme, Scottish traditional musician Phil Cunningham reveals how he fought his way back to performing after a heart attack. 11.30 Fine Lines. A look at poetry in Poland. (R) 12.00 News. 12.25 Experimental Feature: Startales. 12.30 The Late Story: Playing the Part. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 1.30 World News. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 Inshore Forecast. 2.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday.

**RADIO 4 LW** (198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 12.00 - 7.00 Test Match Special.

**RADIO 5 LIVE** (653, 999kHz MW) 6.00 Dirty Tackle. 6.30 Breakfast. 9.00 Chies on Saturday. 11.00 Move It. 11.30 Sick as a Parrot. 12.00 Sportscafe. 1.00 Sport on 5. Football: commentary on a headlining tie from the FA Cup third round in England and second round in Scotland, plus news of all the goals. 6.06 Six-O-Six. 8.00 Dailyn UK. Richard Dailyn with news from around the UK. 9.00 The Treatment. Stuart Macdonald and guests review the week's news. 10.00 Late Night Currie. Austin Mitchell presents features and phone-ins, and gets behind the public image of a celebrity. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

**CLASSIC FM** (100.1-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas. 8.00 Countdown. 11.00 Masters of Their Art. 1.00 Mike Ruck. 3.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00 At the Movies. 8.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Opera. 12.00 Midnight Music. 2.00 Evening Concert. 4.00 - 6.00 Sunday Start.

**VIRGIN RADIO** (1215, 1197-1250kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.00 Jeremy Clark. 9.00 Harriet Scott. 12.00 Russ Williams. 2.00 Rock and Roll Footbal with Chris Evans. 6.00 Wheels of Steel. 10.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 Richard West.

**WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW) 1.30 On Your Behalf. 1.45 Sports Roundup. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Music Review. 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Review. 3.45 Sports Roundup. 3.50 From Our Own Correspondent. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Global Business. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 - 6.00 Jazzmatrazz.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

### CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

WHILE WE in Hastings were just getting started, an event of even greater strength was finishing in Groningen in Holland. The top two groups were six players double rounders - one for men and one for women. This can lead either to a blood bath or a macho, if apparently peaceful, stand-off: depending on the temperaments and strengths of the contestants. In the case of the women, there was more aplenty with 17 decisive games out of the 30 in the category 9 event (average 2459) as Natalia Zhukova from the Ukraine powered her way to 7/10 ahead of Antoaneta Stefanova (Bulgaria) 6.5, Peng Zhaoqin (Holland) 6, Zhu Chen (China) and Monica Miroslawska (Poland) 4 and Diana Darchia (Georgia) just 1.5. The very strong men's tournament averaged 2629, which is category 16. Here discretion took a far greater part with just six decisive games out of the thirty! Both winners, Sergei Tiviakov (Russia) and Vadim Milov (Switzerland) were unbeaten on 6/10. They were followed by Zoltan Almasi (Hungary) on 5.5 - beating both bottom markers but losing to Tiviakov, Jeroen Piket (Holland) who made 4.5 drawing 9 but losing to Milov and finally Alex Yermolinsky (USA) and Karen Asrian (Armenia) on 4, who lost two each without a win. How tedious you might think - and it's hard to rebut this totally. But stick any markedly weaker player into such a pool of piranhas and there would be gore aplenty! I repeat: the reason for so many draws is not excessive peacefulness over the holiday period but a macho balance of terror.

White: Karen Asrian  
Black: Vadim Milov  
Groningen 1998 (5th round)  
Sicilian Taimanov

1 e4 e5	19 a5 Qa7
2 Nf3 c6	20 Ne4 Rd8
3 d4 cxd4	21 Qh5 h6
4 Nxd4 a6	22 Rad1 Ba8
5 Nc3 Qc7	23 f5 exf5
6 Be2 b5	24 Qxd5 c5
7 0-0 Bb7	25 e6 Rf8
8 Re1 Nc6	26 e7 Qxe7
9 Nxc6 dxc6	27 e3 c4
10 a4 Bb6	28 exd4 cxd3
11 g3 Be5	29 Qxd3 Qb4
12 Bb3 Nf6	30 Qf5
13 Be3 0-0	31 Ne5 f4
14 Bc5 Rd8	32 Kg1 f5g3
15 f4 Bd4+	33 Qxg3 Nf4
16 Bxd4 Rxd4	34 Rdd1 Qxb2
17 e5 Qb6	35 Ne6 Nh3+
18 Kf1 Nd5	0-1

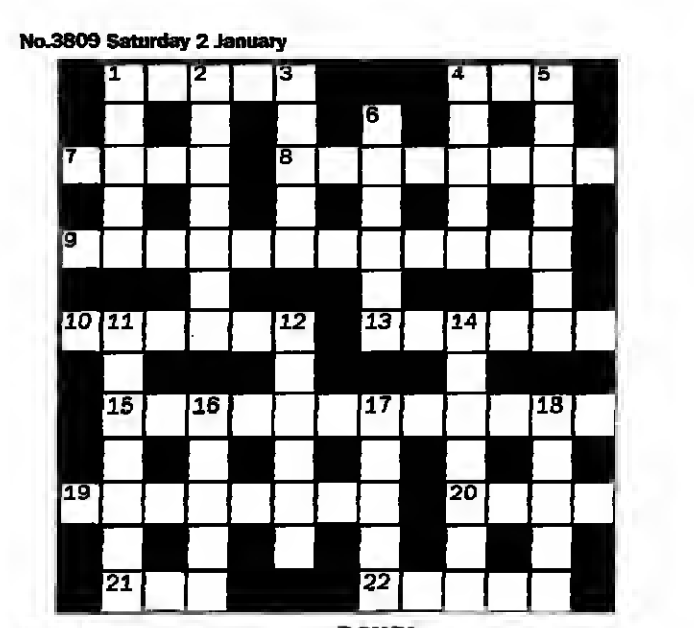
### BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

THIS DEAL, from the 1997 Bermuda Bowl gives keen analysts a rare opportunity. Eric Rodwell duly made his contract but only after missing what appears to have been a sounder line of play. Can you spot it? First, the actual events at the table... Rodwell opened the South hand with INT (14-16 points) - not everyone's choice but, in the partnership's methods, it was a difficult hand to develop after opening One Heart. West pre-empted with Three Clubs and North's double was negative (1). South jumped to Four Hearts and North's raise to Six was passed out. West led ♠Q and, after drawing trumps, declarer tested the diamond unsuccesssfully. As it seemed clear that it was East who held the length in spades, he eventually finessed ♠10 and was then able to claim. But what if West had started with the doubleton jack in spades? Try this - after winning the club lead, draw trumps in two rounds and cash just one of dummy's top diamonds (catering for the possibility of West being void in the suit), come to

hand with a trump and, after cashing ♠A to throw a spade from dummy, lead a spade to the king. East takes his ace and undoubtedly returns a spade but South wins with his queen - catering for West having started with ♠Jx - and cashes his remaining trumps. The point is that West, from his opening lead, is most unlikely to hold a side-suit singleton and, once he has followed to two rounds of trumps, it will be a virtual certainty that East will be squeezed in spades and diamonds.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Shellfish (5)
  - Sound of bee (3)
  - Growing filament (4)
  - Anteater (8)
  - Specialist food shop (12)
  - Person renting room (6)
  - Adorn with relief (6)
  - Kinship (12)
  - Cheeky (8)
  - Do as one is told (4)
  - Born (3)
  - Extent (5)
- DOWN**
- Make cloth on loom (5)
  - Personal ornament (7)
  - Arboreal marsupial (5)
  - Accommodation for bees (5)
  - Armed service (7)
  - Wind (6)
  - Rowers (7)
  - Sooner (6)
  - Woodwind instrument (7)
  - Parasite (5)
  - Exterior (5)
  - Girl's name (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:  
ACROSS: 1 Calf, 4 Hoos (Car phones), 9 Taber, 10 Leopard, 11 Outright, 12 Epee, 13 Telegraph pole, 17 Back, 18 Saccato, 21 Hundred, 22 Adios, 23 Cuddy, 24 Even. DOWN: 2 Abbot, 3 Farming, 4 Half-heartedly, 5 Nean, 6 Stump-pole, 7 Utmost, 8 Edge, 14 Laconic, 15 Hectare, 16 Egoism, 17 Ha-ha, 19 Ag-lie, 20 Utim.

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

### PICK OF THE DAY

BRUCE WILLIS is in typically rip-roaring form in The Fifth Element (10pm Sky Premier, right), a gripping sci-fi thriller directed by Jean Luc Besson. Willis plays a former soldier and taxi driver in 23rd-century New York who is called upon to help the Fifth Element, an exotic being played by Milla Jovovich. Linking earth, wind, fire and water, she alone can save the Earth from destruction. Gary Oldman plays the face of evil.

while Ian Holm and Lee Evans offer Ian's good support. Even in the days before rugby league, there was no such thing as a friendly in Gloucester vs Bath (1.30pm Sky Sports 2) matches. Bath have not been their usual consistent selves of late, and the fact that Gloucester and their ferocious supporters are always a tough prospect at home will not help Bath's chances.



JAMES RAMPTON

**Weather** (7.45-8.00) Extreme Diving (9.00-9.15), 10.00 Forensic Detectives (9.30-9.45), 11.00 The Century of Warfare (9.55-10.05), 12.00 A Century of Warfare (10.15-10.25), 1.00 TSH 2 (10.30-10.40) Close.

**SKY ONE** 7.00 Bump in the Night (2.45), 7.30 Street Stories (1.55), 8.00 The Adventures of Sirbed (9.11), 8.00 The Simpsons (9.40), 9.30 Count Duckula (9.44), 10.00 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys (10.02), 11.00 Wrestling (9.58), 12.00 Wrestling (10.55), 1.00 The New Adventures of Superman (10.43), 2.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (5.44), 3.00 Star Trek: Voyager (6.40), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (7.22), 6.00 Xena: Warrior Princess (6.57), 7.00 Simpsons (6.59), 7.30 The Simpsons (6.59), 8.00 3rd Rock from the Sun (4.38), 8.30 3rd Rock from the Sun (6.11), 9.00 JAG (6.58), 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.01), 12.00 Showbiz Weekly (9.15), 12.30 The Big Easy (9.16), 1.30 Fire (9.16), 2.30 - 6.00 Long Play (9.16).

**SKY SPORTS 1** 6.00 Wild Sports (4.27), 6.30 Scottish Football Motherwell vs Kilmarnock (7.25), 6.40 America (6.58), 6.50 Racing News (7.27), 8.00 Boxing - Fights of 99 (4.25), 12.00 Gillette Soccer Saturday (3.45), 5.30 NFL Double-header (5.22), 12.30 Spanish Football (10.48).

**2.30 Rugby Union Update** (3.59), 3.30 Football (7.45), 5.00 - 6.00 Watersports World (10.55).

**SKY SPORTS 2** 7.00 Aerobics (5.47), 7.30 Racing News (7.59), 8.00 Soccer (7.59), 8.30 Max Power (7.59), 9.00 Gillette World Sport Special (8.30), 1.00 Ford Rugby Union: Gloucester vs Bath (7.58), See *Pick of the Day*. 4.00 Ice Skating (9.30), 6.00 Darts: World Championships (9.30), 7.30 V-Max (6.58), 1.00 Wild Sports (7.59), 1.30 Cricket Australia vs England (7.59), 2.00 Cricket Australia vs England (7.59), 2.30 - 6.00 Cricket Australia vs England (7.59).

**SKY SPORTS 3** 9.00 Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (10.30), 11.00 Cricket Australia vs England (10.59), 1.30 Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (10.30), 1.30 Cricket Australia vs England (10.59), 2.00 Cricket Australia vs England (10.59), 2.30 - 6.00 Cricket Australia vs England (10.59).

**10.30 International Cricket South Africa vs West Indies** (10.30), 11.30 Knockouts of 99 (10.59), 12.00 Close.

**6.00 Fun Sports** (2.27), 6.30 And They Walked Away (2.17), 7.30 Strength (6.58), 8.30 Boxing (10.44), 9.30 Rally: Ford Granada Dakar 99 (8.51), 10.00 Martial Arts (9.11), 11.00 Shocker: German Masters in Bingen (9.58), 12.00 Rally: Total Granada Dakar 99 (7.58), 12.30 Close.

**UK GOLD** 7.00 Big Break (5.37), 7.30 Neighbours Omnibus (2.52), 9.25 Dallas (9.27), 12.30 EastEnders Omnibus (7.26), 3.00 The Bill (6.51), 5.30 No Real Love Home (7.55), 6.00 Film: Carry On Columbus (1982) (9.52), 8.00 Only Fools and Horses (9.57), 9.55 Men Behaving Badly (9.54), 10.25 One Foot in the Grave (9.47), 11.05 Practical Parenting (9.47), 12.00 Films: Dead Men Don't Wear Fez (1991) (9.52), 1.35 Marmaduke (10.58), 2.40 The Count of Monte Cristo (10.58), 2.45 - 7.00 Shopping (9.47).

**LIVING** 6.00 Dog and Arabella Nursery Rhymes (10.27), 6.30 Alfred J Kwak (9.47), 6.30 Tiny and Crew '98 (7.55), 6.35 Polka Dot Shorts (4.32), 6.50 See How They Grow (7.55), 7.00 Practical Parenting (9.47), 7.05 Johnson and Friends (9.29), 7.30 Tiny Tales (9.47), 7.30 Calico (9.47), 7.35 Bug Alert (9.47), 7.55 Practical Parenting (9.47), 8.00 GreedySaurus and the Gang (9.53), 8.30 Spanish Football (10.48).

## REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

**BBC1 N IRELAND** As BBC1 except 4.40 Final Score (9.53), 4.55 Northern Ireland Results (4.00-4.10), 5.50 Newsline (2.04).

**BBC1 SCOTLAND** As BBC1 except 4.40 Afternoon Sportscafe (4.32), 5.40 Are You Being Served? (7.58), 6.50 Reporting Scotland (2.04), 10.30 Sportscafe - Match of the Day (2.04).

**BBC1 WALES** As BBC1 except 4.40 Final Score (9.53), 4.55 Wales on Saturday - the Results (4.00-4.10), 5.50 Wales on Saturday - the Magazine (2.04).

**ANGLIA** As LWT except 12.30 Pirate TV (9.55), 1.05 Anglia News and Weather (9.45), 1.40 Champions of the Future (5.58), 2.40 Altwit (5.58), 3.05 Film: Columbus - 18th All in the Game. Peter Falk in yet another outing as the delusional detective, this time investigating the murder of a wealthy gambler. Prime suspect Faye Dunaway fails to lead him a merry chase. With Claudia Christian, Armando Pucci. (9.45-9.55), 5.05 Anglia News and Weather (9.27), 2.05 Bob Office

America Special (9.58), 3.00 Baywatch Nights (4.40), 3.50 CD UK (9.42), 4.45 Soundtrax (9.45), 5.05 ITV Nightscreen (10.42).

**CENTRAL** As LWT except 12.30 Dinosaurs (7.58), 1.05 Central News and Weather (9.45), 1.40 Stash (7.58), 1.50 Early Edition (8.58), 2.40 Film: Up Perspex. Navy man James Garner joins a submarine in the Pacific, keeping an eye on a Japanese-held island. Clichéd heroics with Edmund O'Brien. (5.58-6.42), 5.05 Central News, Weather and Goals Extra (6.47), 10.20 News: National Lottery Update; Weather (2.28), 3.55 Jobfinder (4.48), 5.00 Spotlight Asia (4.22).

**HTV WALES** As LWT except 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (7.58), 1.05 HTV News (9.45), 1.40 Film: The Longest Day. Marmoth all-star re-creation of the D-Day landings in Normandy. An ambitious effort with many memorable sequences and a bit-and-piece team star cast, including John Wayne, Rod Taylor, Henry Fonda, Robert Mitchum and scores of others. The sheer sound and fury of the piece wins out in the end, and it remains an impressive achievement. (2.47-7.55), 5.05 HTV Wales News and Sport (9.27), 10.20 News, Weather, Lottery Result (4.40), 10.30 Box Office America Special (5.58), 1.05 Box Office America Special (5.58), 1.40 Soundtrax (9.45), 5.05 ITV Nightscreen (10.42).

**HTV WEST** As HTV Wales except 1.40 The Bones Day - LB40 Live in the New South Africa (7.58), 2.50 Film: The Count of Monte Cristo. Richard Chamberlain and a cast of other familiar faces swing from chandeliers, leap from battlements and generally hem-him-up all over the place in an energetic but undistinguished version of the classic Alexandre Dumas tale. With Tony Curtis, Trevor Howard, Donald Pleasence, (2.00-7.55), 5.05 HTV West News and Sport (9.27), 10.20 News; Weekend Weather (4.40-7.55).

**MERIDIAN** As LWT except 12.30 Dinosaurs (7.58), 1.05 Meridian News and Weather (9.45), 1.40 Altwit (5.58), 3.05 Film: The 300 Spartans. Booby battles in ancient Greece. Noisy. With Richard Egan, Diane Baker, Barry

Coa, Ralph Richardson. (4.00-7.55), 5.05 Meridian News and Weather (5.27), 10.20 News; Weather (2.28), 2.05 Box Office America Special (5.58), 3.00 Baywatch Nights (4.40), 3.50 CD UK (9.42), 4.45 Soundtrax (9.45), 5.05 ITV Nightscreen (10.42).

**WESTCOUNTRY** As LWT except 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (7.58), 1.05 Westcountry News (9.45), 1.40 Portrait of Leonardo - the Kid Who Took Hollywood (10.53), 2.40 Film: The Golden Voyage of Sinbad. John Philip Law a rather stiff Sinbad in so-so panto boosted by Ray Harryhausen's animated monsters. With Caroline Munro, Douglas Wilmer, Tom Baker. (6.58-8.42), 5.05 Westcountry News (9.27), 10.20 News; Weather (4.40-7.55), 2.05 Box Office America Special (5.58), 3.00 Baywatch Nights (4.40), 3.50 CD UK (9.42), 4.45 Soundtrax (9.45), 5.05 ITV Nightscreen (10.42).

**YORKSHIRE** As LWT except 12.30 Dinosaurs (7.58), 1.05 Yorkshire News and Weather (9.45), 1.40 Calendar News and Weather (9.27).

**TYNE TEES** As Yorkshire except 1.05 North East News and Weather (9.45), 1.40 North East News (9.27).

**S4C** As Channel 4 except 6.00 Sesame Street (12.43), 12.40 Marmaduke (9.45), 1.00 The Vibe (7.58), 1.30 Racing (9.45), 3.50 Pat and Mat (9.08), 4.00 Rhydianedd: A Journey (7.58), 5.05 Newyddion A Chwarae (8.47), 5.40 Y Cwbr Ryg (9.08), 1.45 Newyddion A Chwarae (9.08), 6.00 Ward Gwa (4.42), 6.00 O Ffian Dy Lygid (4.42), 10.00 Film: Loch Ness. American scientist Ted Danson is dispatched to Scotland to disprove the existence of the Loch Ness monster. With Joely Richardson. (7.58-11.55), 11.55 The Greatest Rory Ever Told (8.58), 12.00 Film: The Handmade Tale. In a bleak and barren future world, fertile young women are used for breeding purposes. Natasha Richardson is understandably dismayed at the prospect. (2.45-4.45), 3.45 St Elsewhere (9.40), 3.55 Film: Street Blues (9.45), 4.50 St Elsewhere (12.58), 5.45 Close.



## TELEVISION REVIEW



AND YOU THOUGHT you were the one who ate too much this Christmas. I will now blame every instance of an unpleasant gag on terrestrial programming in the past week. On The Christmases Armistice (BBC), Tino Anselmo jammed forced capricious white laughter at old buffer from the pre-smoking lobby. On The Jack Doolittle Show (G5, Wed) the host, apologized for the funny where they don't know whether to do accidental comedy, or make their hosts to be — that word again — grotesque. Paul Barbee's surrealized Frank Sinatra club owner, was funny because it was (just about) plausible, but his prothon played by Mortimer spoofs with a Hong Kong accent plucked from their bag of trendy tricks. Maybe it should be called *Sloofing Reels*.

In a caveaters view of *re-orchestrating*

(d)re) doing monologues. And in *Being George*, it's Reeves and Mortimer (GBC2, R), a night-club bouncer broke down while urinating his load. Is there an excess of gaseous emissions in television? Or are facts, like *Cardigan*, making a comeback? Vic and Bob have not made a sketch show for three years. They spent that time weasly melting *Shooting Stars*, a homage to game shows in the form of a raspberry. Like, I suggest, many others, until then I've imputed to their brand of what we critics lazily call surreal humour. In a reassuring way, this is still *Shooting Stars*. They're behind a desk, clothing each other with bying pants, and reliant on celebrities keen to be seen as good sports. ("Pham, after a Grand Prix, do you get out of your car and have a nice relaxing pool?")

The difference is that, 'I've gone and suffered a recurrence of bloke-who-doesn't-get-the-joke syndrome. The Huli-nuki sketch illustrated the kind they've got themselves into,

...and the young stars (GBC2, R), which tie the story of Culture Club's rise in the early 1980s, segment straight. In *The Boy George Video Diary* (GBC2, R), which told of the band's tour of America last summer. They're all much better now, and the longer and the drummer now, longer sleeping together. But some things never change. In a group that started out as a collective, Boy George is still pulling rank, alternately playing the diva and apologeting for doing so. One act of petty egotism was to ban the drummer, Jon Moss, from doing any interviews, after he claimed in a Washington paper that he and George had never had the start that he talked about in detail in *Young Cars*.

This first episode of *Young Cars* was narrated by Marc Almond, another gay pop star from the period who unites Boy George, either 'filled or reduced to turn himself into a caudal pterodactyl and a lizard, possibly pantherine dam. If you listened carefully, you could hear the apple being tumbled onto a soft already rich in chlorine.

## UK ARENA

BBGZ

**7.00 Children's B&C:** (T072024) **7.35 News:** (S074588) **7.40 The Incredible Hulk (R)** (S) (S073482) **8.00 Hero Turf: The Next Mission** (S) (S073026) **8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R)** (S) (S061227) **8.45 Live and Kicking** (S) (S063785).

**12.50 Miami Weather (T)** (S039463) **12.45 Goodland (S)** (S039724) **1.20 Football Focus (7/4/05/50)** **1.45 Athletics** (S) (S039724) **1.50 Country Durham International Cross** (S0678440) **2.40 Racing** (S0678440) **3.40 The Ashes** (S0678440) **2.40 Athletics - The County Of Warwick (R077885)** **2.45 Athletics - The County Of Warwick (R077885)** **2.55 Athletics - The County Of Warwick (R077885)** **3.55 Regional News** (S0625402) **2.55 World Data** (S0644639) **3.50 Newbury from Newbury** (S0350724) **3.55 World First** (S045052) **3.50 Football Heat/Times** (S0333724) **4.00 Athletics** (S039724) **4.00 Country Durham International Cross** (S0678440) **4.40 Football News** (S0301982).

**5.40 Miami Weather (T)** (S039724) **5.40 Regional News** (S039724) **6.00 Weather** (T00547).

**5.55 Jim Davidson's Generation Game.** Jim and Mels are joined by the American Footworks Dance Company, the City Baller of London, Neil Hewitt, Rick Weisman, Kristen O'Brien and John Vingo. Flash, or what? (S) (T) (8/22/83).

**6.55 Noelle's House Party.** The bearded practitioner/owner manipulates another studio audience (S) (T) (8/7/83).

**6.05 Austin's Unbearable New Year Eve.** Embarrassing outtakes from *Essentially As Time Goes By*, *Beck'sweaver* and *Can't Cook*. Won't Cook are among the only two belatable bloomers. (S) (R41856).

**6.35 ERIN The Mask.** (Charles Russell, 1994 US). Not as much fun as it should have been, despite the state-of-the-art special effects, which are in a couple of scenes, quite literally eye-popping. (In Carrey's relentlessly deadpan performance kind of helps. Has the merdch barz who's only giving her a feast of her cleavage because she wants the inside dope on the bank vaults. But anyway it changes when Carrey discovers a magical mask. (S) (70053444).

### THEME OF THE DAY

**CUBA MIGHT** (2005mm 3502, 90m) Forty years on from Fidel Castro's successful revolution in Cuba, BFC2 celebrates the country's achievements through no less a series of programmes. Running in segments throughout the night is an absorbing look at Castro's headlong presidency, which has seen at eight hostile US presidents, and looks as if it is going to culminate this year. Castro became an inspiration for anti-communist movements across Africa and Latin America, and a separate film looks at the fall of Castro's right-hand man, Che Guevara, who died in Bolivia in 1968. We meet the photographer who took that iconic photo of Che and who has never received a penny for it.



## TRAVELOGUE OF THE DAY

**IRISH JOURNEYS** (7.25pm BBC2, 19th). Fergal Keane chronicles the Republic of Ireland over the next three Saturdays, but he begins in Kerry with a necessary history lesson, everything in his own family roots, which are entwined with the republican cause. Keane's grandmother, smuggled weapons during the war of independence against the Brits and a Black and Tan rose even threatened to shoot him. The Catholic clergy took over the dominant role of the English after independence, and Keane illustrates how the priests were themselves ridden by positive economic development and the power of television. Fascinating stuff.



## FILM OF THE DAY

**ALIENS** (11:30pm ET, *only*) James Cameron replaced Ridley Scott in the director's chair for the 1986 sequel to the first film, an overblown combat movie in many respects. Instead of the imaginative use of characters and suspense of Scott's 1979 original, Cameron simply sends in the U.S. marines (which, meanwhile, keep beating out of the elite conditioning at ludicrous regular intervals). Thank goodness for Sigourney Weaver, whose natural presence provides an escape from the relentless techno-mechano.

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ITV Carlton

**6.30 GMTV** (6160359).  
**8.25 SMTV Lite** (S) (56614550). **11.30 CD UK** (S) (46640).  
**12.30 The Food Factory** (R) (87056). **1.00 ITN News:**  
Wednesday, (T) (96524344). **1.05 London Weekend Today**  
Caravan, (T) (96524005). **1.00 On the Ball** (T) (82582206). **1.40**

**1.45 FILM** **Columbo - It's All in the Game** (Bill Macy  
1983 US). Pops Furewry is the guest witness in this  
adventure for the disreputable private investigator. She's  
course, she did it. It's only a question of Peter Falk  
acquitting it out of her (wouldn't he rise if he was  
wrong with the homicide, just one time?) (S) (77891206).

**3.40 Sports Tonight** (T) (7556550). **4.45 ITN News:** Sports  
Tonight. Weather (T) (6534356). **5.05 London Weekend**  
**Tough** (T) (5654174).

**5.15 FILM** **Three Men and a Baby** (Lucerna Nitro  
1987 US). Oursy cast Hollywood version of a hit French  
comedy. (which in turn was based on Jean Rods Three  
and a Half Men). It follows Tom Sallick, Steve Guttenberg  
and Ted Danson to play for the wife. (S) (77891206).  
bandoliers with a baby girl left on their doorstep. Cue  
much fun with nipples and so on (T) (64653565).

# Channel 4

**200 174, Mandelne (R)** (2399006), 7.25 T4, Animal Alphabet (5346804, 1.50 14; The Magic School Bus (82200), 8.00 Treadwell Sport (2350), 8.00 Morning Line (S) 40647, 10.00 Roby World (5182), 11.00 Garzaia Football Hall (T) 71956), 12.00 6000 X (43024), 12.30 Maxmane (R) (8050359), 1.06 The Vibe (82343314).

**1.30 Channel 4 Racing from Lingfield Park and Uttoxeter.** Today's flat meeting at Lingfield Park, plus the 140, 240, 240 and 3.00m, while they are the US\$ and 2.50pm (823225369).

**3.45 Meeseth.** A Channel 4 Sports production, giving the Scottish play a modern urban setting. Sean Pertwee as Macbeth, Gaele Sacorri as Lady Macbeth, and they are supported by Philip Madoc (Duncan), Mick and Maureen (Banquo) and Jack Davenport (Miles from The Line) is Macdon (R) (2345699).

**5.30 Brookside Omnibus.** The full Maeray gret-ellion, is the most art, heart to be living our, Maeray realises all, new cultural times elated, and, most gruesome of them. New York is celebrated in the Millennium Club (R) (5) (7) (67443200).

# Channel 5

**8.00 Dapple-down Farm** (R) (320886) **8.30 Hanakaze**  
**9.00** (R) (3700635) **7.00 5 News and Sport** (S) (856555)  
**7.30** *Milkenkist* (S) (853535) **7.55 Wynzas House** (R)  
 (S) (920221) **8.00** *Leslie* (S) (146220) **8.30** *Wishbone*  
 (S) (144251) **8.50** *Land of the Lost* (R) (144611) **9.30**  
*The Incredible Hulk* (122220) **10.00** *Logan's Run*  
 (1444385) **11.00** *The Best of Beal* (R) (S) (854388)  
**11.30** *Shoged Out* (R) (S) (494467) **12.00** *Love Me to*  
*a Reason* (S) (923131) **1.00** *Jeopardy!* (R)  
 (8525220) **1.15** *RAD Special: Solid Rock* *Prize Fight*  
**1.45 5 News** (S) (R) (3005572) **1.00** *Football on 5*  
 (8208467) **3.00** *Bliss* (S) (8633462)

**3.30 Sunset Beach** *Oranma* *Mig* *deserves* *hat* *Ben*  
 and *Marta* *are* *still* *married*. *She* *probably* *tried* *reading*  
*their* *tips* - *the* *only* *way*, *regular* *viewers* *will* *tell* *you*, *if*  
*feeling* *what* *is* *going* *on* *around* *here*. *The* *final* *two*  
*expressions* *could* *mean* *anything* (R) (S) (4658043).

**5.55 5 News and Sport** (S) (R) (857314).

**6.00 Harocles - the Legendary Journeys**  
*surprises* *on* *an* *underground* *commune* *of* *goblins* *ruled*  
*by* *the* *charismatic* *Kammaro*, *who* *controls* *the* *subjects*  
*by* *a* *mixture* *of* *hypnosis* *and* *drugs*. *Our* *half-*  
*man, half-blood* *protagonist* *proves* *to* *be* *no* *exception* (S)  
 (8166363).

**6.55 Night Fever** *Shuga*-hosted *karaoke* *nonense*. *Team*  
*captain* *is* *an* *French* *Levi* *and* *Brookside's* *Sam* *Kean*,  
*while* *the* *musicians* *come* *from* *Rose* *Polys* *and* *Bliss*  
*to* *Sparks* (S) (240220).

**7.45 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (5584-63)**

**9.00 Hellfax F.R.** Drama series about Australian forensic psychiatrist. When eight people are shot dead at a service station, our hero is pressurised into assisting the investigation. (T) (5803647)

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 200 million to 400 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

**1.00 FILM** **Opposing Force** (Eic Katcat 1988 US, A military experiment on an isolated island turns into a battle for survival when the commander goes mad. Tom Skerritt stars) (V) (937-2885).

**1.05 FILM** **Louis Armstrong Chicago Style** (See Philips 976 US). True drama about an incident in the life of jazzman Louis Armstrong when he was threatened by Chicago gangsters (537-6686). To 2.55am.

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